Reporma, Promdi support Roco bid

See story on PAGE A2

$10-M fund proposed for RP law enforcers

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE WHITE House has proposed to the US Congress a $10-million funding for the Philippines' Law Enforcement Working Group Program, US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone said yesterday.

The bulk of the requested funding is planned for the Anti-Terrorism Assistance program (ATA) and International

$10-M FUND/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
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Naia 3 extortion raps shock GMA

Independent investigation welcomed

By Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Alcuin Papa

EXPRESSING shock over allegations of extortion in the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 project, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said she would welcome an independent probe of the charges made by the German airport operator Fraport AG against her personal lawyer and two Malacañang officials before an international arbitration tribunal.

"I ask those accused to account for all their actions in this case and I am confident they can adequately defend themselves," the President said in a statement.

Fraport had alleged that F. Arthur "Pancho" Villaraza, personal lawyer of the President, demanded "several tens of millions of US dollars" from the company to facilitate the ouster of the Cheng family from the international passenger terminal project so groups favored by Malacañang could take part in the project.

Fraport chair Wilhelm Bender and vice chair Manfred Schölch made the claim in a letter to the World Bank's International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) last month.

NAIA 3/ A6

Philippines

PRESIDENT Macapagal arrives at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport to observe the Organization of the Islamic Conference summit upon the invitation of Malaysian President Mahathir Mohamad. She is escorted by Ambassadors Romualdo A. Ong and Zabedah.

JERRY CARUAL/PCPO-MALACAÑANG

OIC rejects anew RP application for observer status; Gloria in KL

By Allan Nawal
PDI Mindanao Bureau
and Juliet Labog-Javellana
in Manila

KUALA LUMPUR (via PLDT)—The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) has rejected anew the Philippines' application to acquire an observer status in the influential pan-Islamic body.

The decision to reject the Philippines' bid was made by the OIC's powerful Committee of the Eight chaired by Indonesia.

Datu Musib Buat, chief negotiator of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), told the INQUIRER that the committee's decision was definitely "good news to the Muslim Ummah."

"We are very glad about this new development," he said.

"Technically, the GRP could not replace the MNLF (Moro National Liberation Front) even if the latter had already signed a peace treaty. The MNLF had been accorded the status only as representative of the Muslim community in the Philippines and not as a state,"

OIC REJECTS/ A8

RP gov't may lose assets overseas

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINE government may have to give up a big chunk of its commercial assets abroad, including land and buildings in New York and Tokyo, if it loses in the arbitration case filed by the German airport operator Fraport AG with the World Bank's International Center for Settlements of Investment Disputes.

A Fraport lawyer, who asked not to be named, said that if the the ICSID ordered the Philippine government to compensate Fraport, the German firm could satisfy its award by running after the assets of the government in World Bank member-countries except those with state functions like embassies.

In an interview, businessman Jose Ch. Alvarez, the negotiator designated by Cheng Yong and Fraport's Peter Henkel, said that the Philippines could also experience a tightening of its international multilateral credit lines should the case prosper.

"The World Bank would frown on extending more loans to the Philippines in the face of this glaring corruption case," Alvarez said. The Cheng family and Fraport are major investors in Philippine International Air Terminals Inc. (Piatco), the company that won the contract to build and operate the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3.

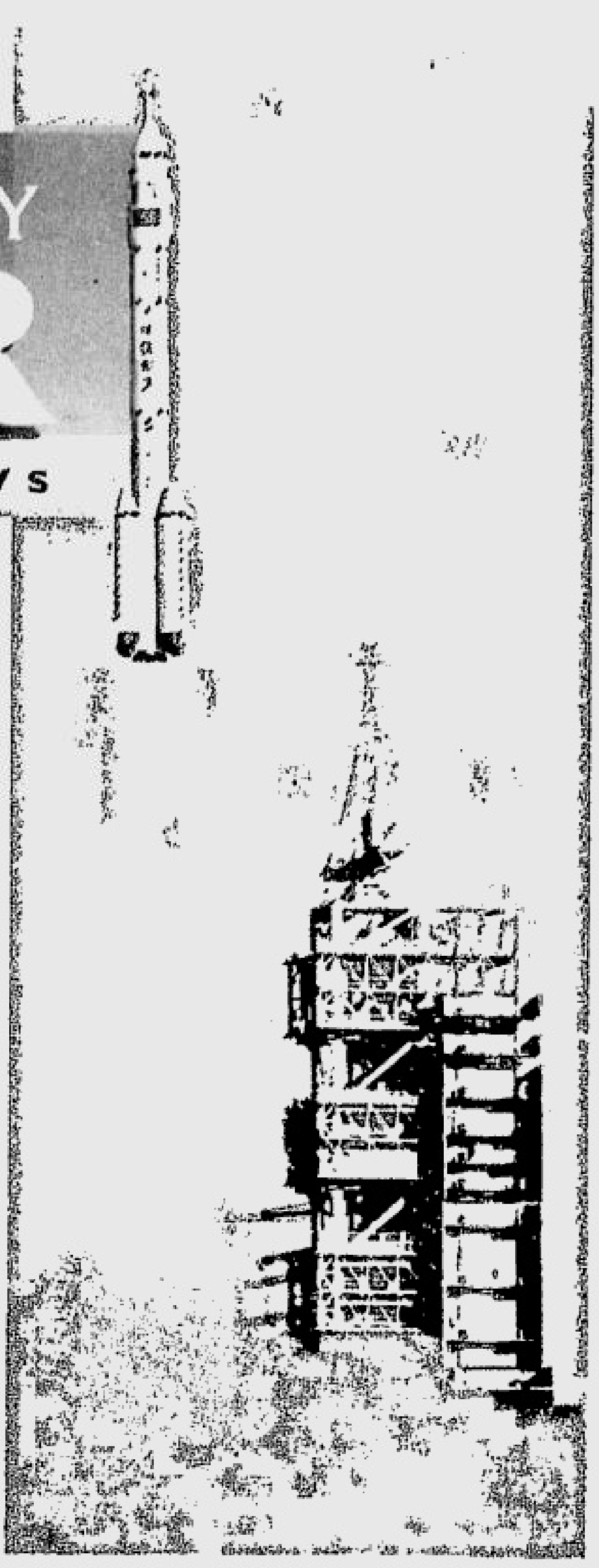
Fraport is asking for $425 million in compensation for unrecovered investment and damages from the government for the unfair, arbitrary and inequitable treatment that resulted in the company's complete expropriation of its money when the government nullified Piatco's contracts.

Alvarez noted that the arbitration case only involved Fraport's exposure in Naia 3 and that other Piatco shareholders such as the Cheng family, Nissho Iwai of Japan and SBL Port of Singapore would also seek compensation that could nudge even higher the government's prospective losses from the deal.

He said the move by Fraport and the Chengs to jointly seek a settlement instead of contesting the government's takeover of the terminal should pave the way for a reasonable conclusion to the controversy and the opening of Naia 3.

The Piatco shareholders are seeking between $427 million and $565 million in compensation from the government but the group is willing to cut a deal as long as the government's offer has legal basis, according to Alvarez. Fraport has committed to drop its arbi-

RP GOV'T/ A6



CHINA'S first manned spacecraft Shenzhou 5 blasts off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in Gansu province.

AP

Liftoff! China sends manned craft into orbit

ASTRONAUT Yang Liwei prepares to board the rocket carrying the Shenzhou 5.

AFP

GOBI DESERT, China—China launched its first manned space mission on Wednesday, becoming the third country in history to send a person into orbit—four decades after the former Soviet Union and the United States.

"I feel good," China's first astronaut and instant hero radioed back to mission control.

With a column of smoke, the Shenzhou 5 craft cut across a bright, azure northwest China sky at exactly 9 a.m. (8 a.m. in Manila) and went into orbit 10 minutes later. The official Xinhua News Agency immediately confirmed the launch and said the astronaut was Air Force Lt. Col. Yang Liwei, 38.

Yang was "reading a flight manual in the capsule of the Shenzhou-5 spacecraft and looked composed and at ease," Xinhua said.

It was the culmination of a decade of efforts by China's military-linked manned space program—and a patriotism-drenched moment for a communist government more concerned than ever about its profile on the world stage.

State media say the manned flight is expected to last about 20 hours.

"I feel good," Yang radioed back from space after a half-hour in flight, according to Xinhua. He told his doctor that his blood pressure and other vital signs were "normal."

Then a bit of cool astronaut bravado: "See you tomorrow."

Li Jinai, chief commander of the country's manned space program, was quoted by Xinhua as saying the spacecraft was operating normally in orbit. Xinhua said three rescue ships that were waiting at sea in case the launch went wrong had been summoned home.

The launch makes China the third country to put a human into space on its own. The former Soviet Union sent Yuri Gagarin into orbit in April 1961; the United States launched Alan B. Shepard

LIFTOFF/ A8

Apec leaders' dress code: Thai silk shirts

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BANGKOK—President Macapagal-Arroyo and the 20 other world leaders who will gather here next week for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) meeting will be wearing one-of-a-kind Thai silk shirts during

APEC/ A8

BAGAY YAN KAY ATE GLO

PNP says Erap could be terrorist target

JOSEPH Estrada a terrorist target?

The Philippine National Police believes so, and it is asking the Sandiganbayan to move the ousted President from the Veterans' Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City to Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal, to avert what may be another embarrassment, security-wise, for the government.

Chief Supt. Prospero Noble, head of the Police Protection and Security Office, yesterday told radio station dzBB that "while the efforts of the [PNP] and the Armed Forces are focused on the arrival of [US] President [George W.] Bush, terrorists could turn to other targets of opportunity."

"For as long as the threat is there, [Estrada] should remain inside Camp Capinpin," Noble said.

The Sandiganbayan has yet to rule on the petition that the PNP filed on Tuesday.

In the petition, PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. cited an alleged plot to spring Estrada from the VMMC by "some elements out to destabilize the present administration."

Lawyer Jose Flaminiano told the antigraft court at the resumption yesterday of Estrada's trial for plunder that the latter was "not objecting" to the planned transfer.

A member of the Estrada camp said the ex-President was sending a group of aides to check out the camp today.

PNP/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2003
E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon will experience rains while the rest of the country will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/10/16/03

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Second FrontPage

Antigraft court orders suspension of Soriquez

By Volt Contreras

THE SANDIGANBAYAN yesterday slapped a 90-day suspension on acting Public Works Secretary Florante Soriquez and four other government engineers in connection with the P2.7-billion Pampanga megadike project "scam."

Soriquez failed to secure a restraining order from the Supreme Court, prompting the Sandiganbayan's 5th Division to impose the suspension sought by state prosecutors.

"The presumption is that unless the accused is suspended, he may frustrate his prosecution or commit further acts of malfeasance," the court said in its ruling.

In a phone interview, Soriquez said he has yet to receive the suspension order. "If I receive it, I will file a motion for reconsideration before the Sandiganbayan to prevent the suspension," he said in Filipino.

Soriquez and nine others, four of them private individuals, are on trial for graft over the 1996 collapse of certain portions of the FVR Megadike Project which was designed to control lahar flow following Mt. Pinatubo's eruptions.

Also suspended by the Sandiganbayan were DPWH supervising engineers Rey David, Ulysis Maniago, Juan Gonzales and Gil Rivera.

Their co-accused include Ariel Lim, Alberto Toelengco, Neill Allan Mary and Remigio Angtia, all officers of the Atlantic Erectors Inc., which undertook the construction of the giant anti-lahar structure.

Soriquez, then director of the Mt. Pinatubo Rehabiliation Project during the Ramos administration, oversaw the dike's construction.

In a case filed on Dec. 6, 1996, Soriquez was accused of allowing the contractor to disregard the specifications originally set in the contract, while fully paying the firm P38.29 million for the portion that eventually collapsed.

In its ruling yesterday, the Sandiganbayan justices junked Soriquez's argument that out of "courtesy" to the Supreme Court, the Sandiganbayan should withhold action on the suspension pleading since he was challenging the denial of his demurrer to evidence before the high tribunal.

The acting DPWH chief had also maintained that as an "alter ego" of the President, "the trust and confidence of the President is a guaranty that herein accused will not commit any further malfeasance in office."

In their own opposition pleadings, David, Maniago, Gonzales and Rivera argued that suspending them at this point in the trial would already be useless and tantamount to a "penalty."

Since the prosecution had already rested its case, they said, their suspension would "no longer be necessary" if the purpose was to prevent them from tampering with evidence or pressure witnesses against them.

But the anti-graft court, chaired by Presiding Justice Minita-Chico Nazario, said it "does not distinguish which type of public officials must be suspended."

It also said the law sets no limit as to when the court can suspend public officials who are already on trial for graft.

In July, Soriquez reportedly reacted to the suspension pleading by saying that President Macapagal-Arroyo "may feel sorry for me, but she has enough faith in me to keep me in the Cabinet."

He said he was merely "made a scapegoat" in connection with the alleged scam and that "the President knows this." *With a report from Martin P. Marfil*

Reporma, Promdi support Roco bid

By Dona Pazzibugan

RENATO de Villa of Reporma (left) and Lito Osmeña of Promdi (right) agree to support the candidacy of Raul Roco of Aksyon Demokratiko in the 2004 presidential race.

THREE former rivals in the 1998 presidential elections yesterday announced that they were joining forces and supporting the candidacy of one of them, former senator and education secretary Raul Roco.

Rene De Villa and Lito Osmeña, both of whom are incumbent presidential advisers, yesterday took their minuscule parties Reporma and Promdi out of the administration People Power Coalition and, with Roco's Aksyon Demokratiko, will field a common slate in the 2004 elections.

The three, who ran against and lost to Joseph Estrada in the 1998 presidential election, met on Tuesday at the Century Park hotel to formalize their alliance.

De Villa, Osmeña and Roco blamed President Macapagal-Arroyo for breaking up the administration coalition when she declared on Oct. 4 that she would run in 2004 despite a supposed earlier pledge not to do so.

"By her recent acts, (the) President has apparently abandoned the PPC and what it stood for at Edsa II. In embracing Lakas, she has gone back to politics as usual and turned her back on the demand of the Filipino people for real change," they said in a statement.

In a news conference, Roco said he saw a "three-cornered fight among the administration, the opposition and the best choice," referring to himself.

He said he would be announcing his choice for his running mate and senatorial line-up on Nov. 30.

The three parties did not come up with a name for their alliance. Roco said each party would remain distinct.

Rep. Oscar Moreno, a member of the ruling Lakas-CMD, said he expected other ruling party members to jump to the Roco camp, particularly the younger legislators who "want good government."

He still has to resign from Lakas, "but I'm for Roco, that's for sure," Moreno said.

Moreno, who was one of the House prosecutors in the Estrada impeachment trial, said he was disillusioned by allegations that First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo had millions of pesos in dummy Jose Pidal accounts.

"I can't be in the same room as Jose Pidal. I can't adopt different standards for Jose Velarde (Estrada's alleged alias) and Jose Pidal," he said.

Protests, 'deodorized' Manila to greet Bush

By TJ Burgonio, Jerome Aning and Juliet L. Javellana

MASSIVE protests, a hastily beautified metropolis and a virtual battle zone will greet US President George W. Bush during his eight-hour state visit in Manila on Saturday.

Several anti-Bush protests have begun in the countryside while caravans of farmers are rolling toward Manila in time for Bush's arrival which will culminate in the burning of 100 US flags.

Areas where Bush and his entourage are expected to pass have been hastily spruced up; street lines and center islands have been freshly painted and new plants planted. Newly installed billboards welcoming Bush now obscure the shanties behind them.

The security preparations for the visit will virtually transform the whole Metro Manila and its environs into a battle zone on Saturday with every nook and cranny crawling literally with military, police and US secret service agents securing the world's most powerful man.

With only less than three days left before the scheduled visit, the military and police are now on maximum alert to thwart any possible attacks from communist, secessionist and terrorist groups.

All leaves have been canceled and the entire 130,000-member military are placed on 24-hour standby to deal with any emergency.

The upgrading of the alert status came in the wake of intelligence reports that the Abu Sayyaf and the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front were plotting to mount attacks in Mindanao and Metro Manila during the visit.

"We have to maintain a high state of vigilance against terrorism or against any group that is planning to create some mischief. But there are no identified threats," Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, Armed Forces vice chief of staff, said in a phone interview.

On Saturday, airport authorities will enforce "a no-fly zone" at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport before the landing and take off of the US Air Force One as part of the security measures.

International and domestic airlines will be barred from landing and taking off 30 minutes before the Air Force One touches down at past noon, and 30 minutes before it takes off for Singapore in the evening, airport officials said.

Joint sniper teams from the US Secret Service, Presidential Security Guard (PSG) and the police Aviation Security Group (ASG) will be deployed at strategic areas at the Naia Terminals 1 and 2 to foil any assassination attempt.

Based on the security arrangement, US Secret Service agents will provide the close-in security or the first layer of security for Mr. Bush and his official entourage; the PSG and the airport police, the second layer; and the ASG, the third layer.

Some 6,000 personnel from the ASG, private security agencies and the Airport Police Department will be fielded in and around the Naia terminals to preempt any untoward incident during the state visit. They will be beefed up by two battalions of civil disturbance management units from the national police and the Air Force.

All in all, some 9,000 personnel would be deployed to secure the international airport from any disturbance.

Checkpoints will be set up several kilometers away from the terminal.

Militant groups planning to greet Mr. Bush with protest rallies near the terminals on Saturday will not be allowed to get past the checkpoints.

In Camp Olivas, Pampanga, police officials, in a meeting with leaders of militant groups, cited coup threats and terror plots in justifying the intensified security measures laid out for the state visit.

Despite the looming protest rallies by militant groups, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday expressed confidence that a festive mood will mark the much-anticipated state visit.

She gave assurances that Bush would be welcomed as a friend of the Filipinos.

Malacañang officials said the sprucing up and decorating of the palace was done to give a dignified reception to Bush. Malacañang has been given a fresh coat of white paint for the visit.

At least six nipa huts were erected for the "barrio fiesta" theme of the reception, where native Filipino dishes will be served all day long for Bush's delegation.

But militant groups assailed yesterday the planned P500,000 "barrio fiesta" state dinner as "obscene," saying it evoked memories of the Marcos family's excesses in Malacañang.

"It is the height of obscenity to be feasting on a banquet while a great number of Filipinos hardly have anything to eat," said Teodoro Casiño, Bayan secretary general.

In contrast, Bayan will hold a P50 "street dinner" to coincide with the Bush state dinner.

In Sta. Rosa, Laguna, anti-Bush protesters from Southern Tagalog braved the rains and marched more than 20 km yesterday, the third day of their march.

In Congress, a legislator said no amount of spruce-up operations can hide the actual state of the country from the US President.

"The MMDA could fence off bridges or uproot shanties overnight to hide squatters. It could even repaint Metro Manila all over to create a semblance of beauty and order, but this will not be able to conceal the prevalent economic conditions," Rep. Apolinario Lozada, chair of the House committee on foreign relations, said. *With reports from Norman Bordadora, Carlito Pablo, Alcuin Papa, Cynthia Balana, Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk and Clarice Colting, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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Lorenzo under fire in Congress for 'conflict of interest'

By Carlito Pablo

LORENZO

AGRICULTURE Secretary Luis "Cito" Lorenzo has come under fire at the House of Representatives for his allegedly "blatant and shameful display of conflict of interest" involving the agricultural companies owned by his family.

Minority Leader Carlos Padilla yesterday accused Lorenzo of allegedly forcing vegetable consumers to purchase the agricultural products of the Lorenzo family corporations.

He said Lorenzo used to be chair and chief executive officer of Lapanday Holdings and chair of Lapanday Foods and "continues to run these companies, perhaps not formally, but verily on a personal basis."

In a phone interview, Lorenzo denied that he continued to call the shots at Lapanday Foods or that he marketed its produce to top corporations even after he became agriculture chief.

"I hope Congressman Padilla would check his facts. If he did, he would have known that I already divested any stake in the company as early as after I became presidential adviser," Lorenzo said.

"I categorically deny that," he said.

Padilla claimed that Lorenzo "pushed for his private interests in at least three instances" in the marketing of produce from the Lapanday Holdings Corp. and Lapanday Foods Corp.

He said Lorenzo was "marketing" Lapanday produce to the Mandarin, Dusit and Peninsula hotels, and the Almon Marina and Italianni's cafés. Almon Marina has a branch at the Batasang Pambansa complex in Quezon City where the House has its offices and session hall.

"Very very recently … Lorenzo explicitly directed these establishments along with distributors and importers to purchase their lettuce needs from Lapanday," Padilla said, quoting the firms' purchasing managers.

He said Lorenzo has "deliberately refused to fully disclose his past and present interests" before the congressional Commission on Appointments.

In a statement, Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo accused another Lorenzo-owned company, Lapanday Agricultural Development Corp. (Ladeco), of endangering the health of the public with its continued use of toxic pesticides.

Ocampo said some 150 families from the village of Kamukhaan have been exposed to chemical poisoning in the Ladeco banana plantation in Digos, Davao del Sur.

Lorenzo is the chair of Ladeco, he said.

Ocampo said Lorenzo had sued several media outfits and editors over a number of articles on the issue. The P12-million libel case, which the Davao City prosecutor dismissed in 2001, was revived by the justice department last July after Lorenzo became a Cabinet member, he said. *With a report from Norman Bordadora*

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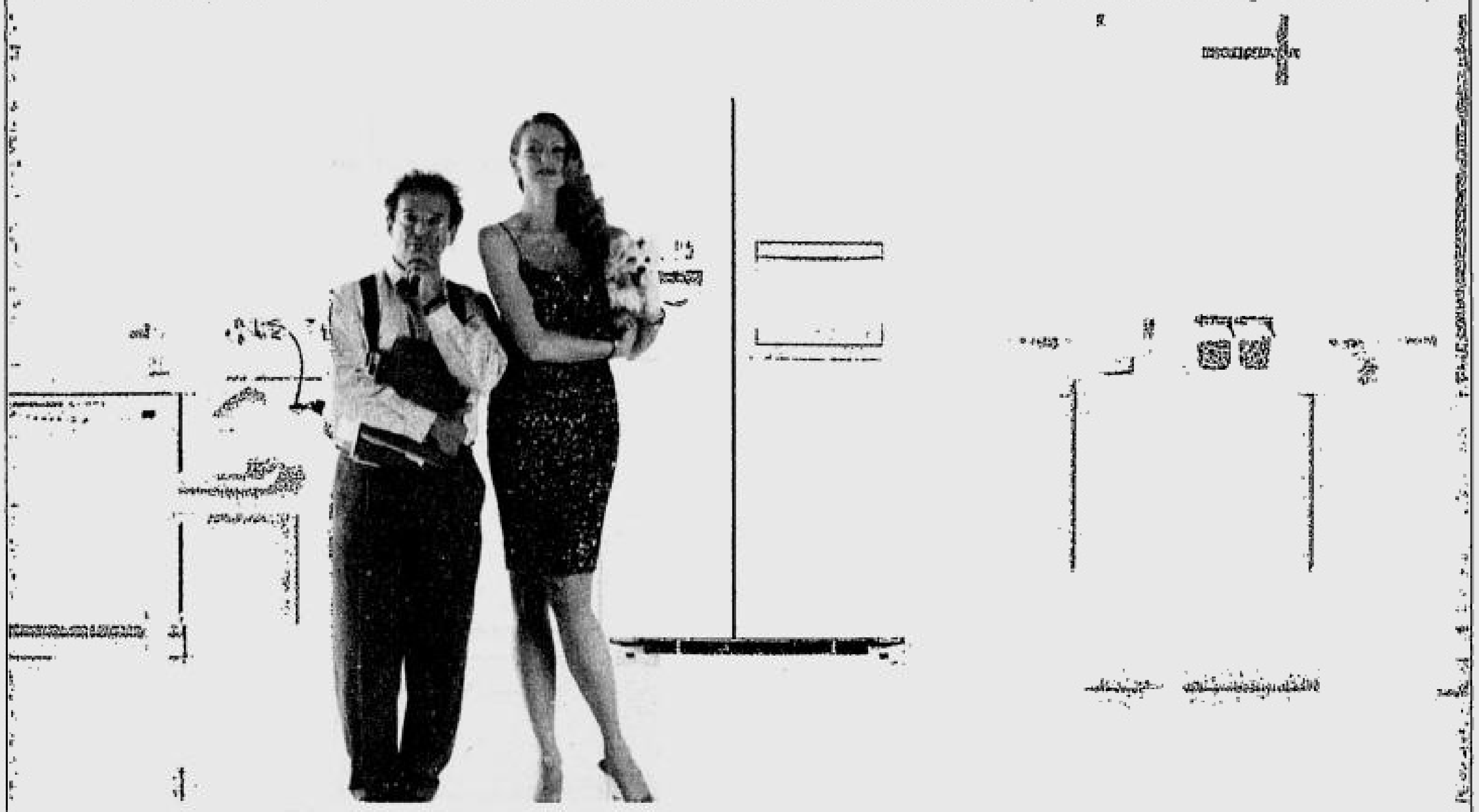

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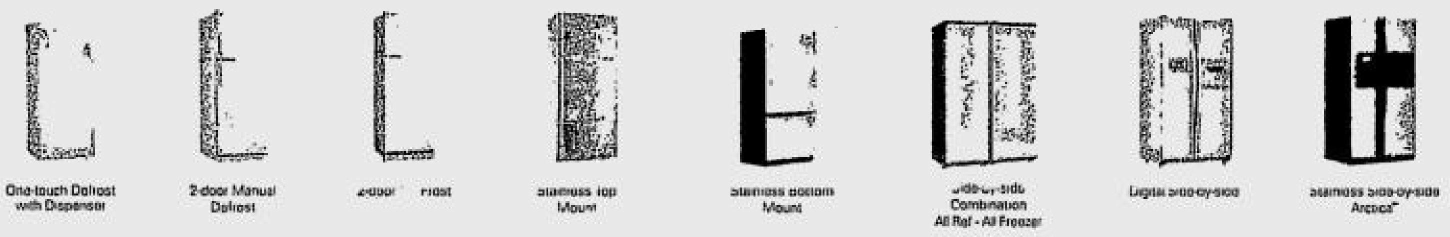
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Per DTI-NCR Permit #4070, Series of 2003.

$10-M fund proposed for RP law enforcers

From page A1

Narcotics Law Enforcement, with an amount provided for the Joint Inter-Agency Task Force, which supports civilian efforts against illegal drugs and narco-terrorism.

Ricciardone said more than 13,000 Philippine law enforcement personnel had trained in the program. Among the courses are surveillance detection, hostage negotiation, cyber terrorism, chemical and biological warfare, and vital facility security.

He said the amount being requested by the administration of US President George W. Bush for the Philippines was a big jump from the estimated $3 million granted this year.

Every year since 1999, funding for the ATA has not exceeded $2 million. The ATA, created by the US Congress in 1983, provides assistance to strengthen bilateral ties between Washington and its allies, including training and equipment to deter terrorism.

Ricciardone and Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr. signed yesterday at the US Embassy a memorandum of intent setting the guidelines for needs assessment, participant selection, program reviews, equipment grants and medical and administrative matters in the law enforcement assistance program.

Similar agreements are being signed by other countries worldwide.

In the Philippines, the ATA will focus on five basic areas: law enforcement, preservation of peace, protection of life and property, protection of national leadership and the resident diplomatic corps, control over international borders, protection of critical infrastructure, and management of terrorist attacks that have national security implication.

Ricciardone said in a media briefing after the signing ceremony that joint efforts to combat terrorism would be among the main topics to be discussed by Bush and President Macapagal-Arroyo at their meeting on Oct. 18.

'Incredible pressure'

Bush will be "spending more of his business hours" in the Philippines than in any other country he will visit in his Asia-Pacific swing this weekend, Ricciardone said in response to questions why the US president will not stay overnight in Manila on Saturday.

"There is incredible pressure on the president's time," the ambassador said, adding that Bush's visit should not be measured in terms of the amount of time he would spend here but on what it would achieve, particularly in economic and security cooperation.

Ricciardone said Bush's visit would also be significant for the fact that it would be the first state visit in his three-year administration.

Bush's address to a joint session of the Philippine Congress will also be the first by an American president since Dwight Eisenhower in 1960.

Ricciardone allayed speculations that the security concerns in Manila were the reasons for the brief state visit.

"The US president feels safe coming here," he said. "Americans and their families feel safe and welcome here."

A statement released by the US Embassy quoted US National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice as saying that Bush would travel to Asia and Australia to stress the crucial importance of the United States' long-standing alliances in the region, to express gratitude to the countries who supported the "global war on terror," and to work to strengthen the region's commitment to free and fair trade.

Rice said Bush's schedule was "rather crammed" because there were a lot of bilateral talks to hold in Thailand, site of the coming summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation.

She also explained why Bush would not be spending the night in Manila: "As you might imagine, this is a complicated trip to arrange because of flying a very, very long way, having to go great distances. We wanted to make maximum use of time on the airplane overnight and so forth.

"The president will have a very good visit in the Philippines and then go on to other important issues that he has."

Major policy speech

Senate President Franklin Drilon said Bush was expected to make a major US policy speech for Asia when he addresses the Philippine Congress.

Drilon said that according to Ricciardone, Bush's policy speech in Manila was the only such speech he would make in his trip.

"Indeed, we can say that... the address before the joint session will be the highlight of President Bush's visit here because he will be making policy statements not only for the Philippines but presumably also for the region. This is the only policy speech that he will make," Drilon told reporters.

He also said Bush's policy speech would involve security and other topics.

The United States considers the Philippines a strong ally in its war against terrorism because the latter has backed the actions it has taken since the 9/11 attacks in New York and Washington in 2001.

The Philippines is one of the few countries that supported the US invasion of Iraq early this year. *With reports from Nelson F. Flores and Christine O. Avendaño*

PNP says Erap could be terrorist target

From page A1

And a draft statement from the Estrada-backed Partido ng Masang Pilipino (PMP) said it hoped that the ex-President would still be allowed to receive visitors if he would be transferred.

Inexplicably, however, the PMP statement was withdrawn hours after it was faxed to media offices.

Estrada's wife, Sen. Luisa Ejercito-Estrada, confirmed to reporters his planned transfer to Camp Capinpin.

She said that her husband claimed no knowledge of the reason behind the plan, and that he could not do anything about it: *"Kung ano'ng sabihin sa kanya, wala rin naman siyang magagawa."*

But the senator said she did not think her husband was under any threat.

"Who will spring him [from the VMMC]?" she said.

She also said that the family had a house near the camp, and that if authorities would allow it, her husband could stay there temporarily.

Sunning, etc.

Flaminiano described Camp Capinpin, headquarters of the Army's 2nd Infantry Division, as "very ideal."

"There is no pollution and the facilities, according to the PNP, are complete," the lawyer said at the resumption of Estrada's trial. The hearing, however, was cut short because of a pending motion filed by the defense.

Flaminiano later told reporters that at Capinpin, Estrada could spend time "sunning" himself and could "have a chance to jog around and walk any time."

"We have no reason to question [the planned transfer]," he said.

The Estrada lawyers later filed a motion saying they were leaving the matter to the court's discretion, which prosecutors took as a sign that the ex-President's camp was "endorsing" the PNP's plan.

But the state prosecutors said they needed more convincing.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio wryly noted that the Estradas owned a "Mediterranean-type vacation villa" near Capinpin.

"It's the election season, and all this could be nothing more than political noise," Villa-Ignacio said of the alleged plot targeting Estrada.

He said the PNP better give a satisfactory explanation at the hearing scheduled on Friday.

He also said that if there were an urgent need to move Estrada, it should only be during a real emergency situation like the July 27 mutiny, and to another camp not as far as Capinpin.

Estrada was briefly moved to the AFP headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo on July 27. Administration officials said then that the mutinous soldiers sought to spring Estrada and make him a figurehead in a new government.

P170,000 a month

In the five-page petition sent to Sandigabayan Special Division Chair Minita Chico-Nazario, Ebdane said the PNP was spending P170,000 a month for the meals and power and water bills of the officers posted at the VMMC, where Estrada has stayed in an air-conditioned suite since his arrest on April 26, 2001.

Ebdane said moving Estrada to and from the court house entailed "additional expenses" averaging P6,000 each time, and that the deployment of backup forces whenever his supporters held rallies near the VMMC required another P6,000.

The PNP chief said Camp Capinpin could address Estrada's "basic needs," as well as provide "the protection he deserves."

"To some extent, the vibrant and tranquil surroundings in Capinpin are a convenience not obtaining in [Estrada's] present detention," Ebdane said.

He said guarding Estrada at Capinpin would "reduce requirements to a minimum."

He also said the PNP was willing to use "a more practicable mode of transport: a helicopter," instead of the more expensive land convoys whenever Estrada's presence in court was required.

As to the alleged plot, Ebdane said: "Recent intelligence gathered from various sources disclosed that some elements out to destabilize the present administration will ... include taking [Estrada] by force to an undisclosed location to serve their intention."

Preventive measure

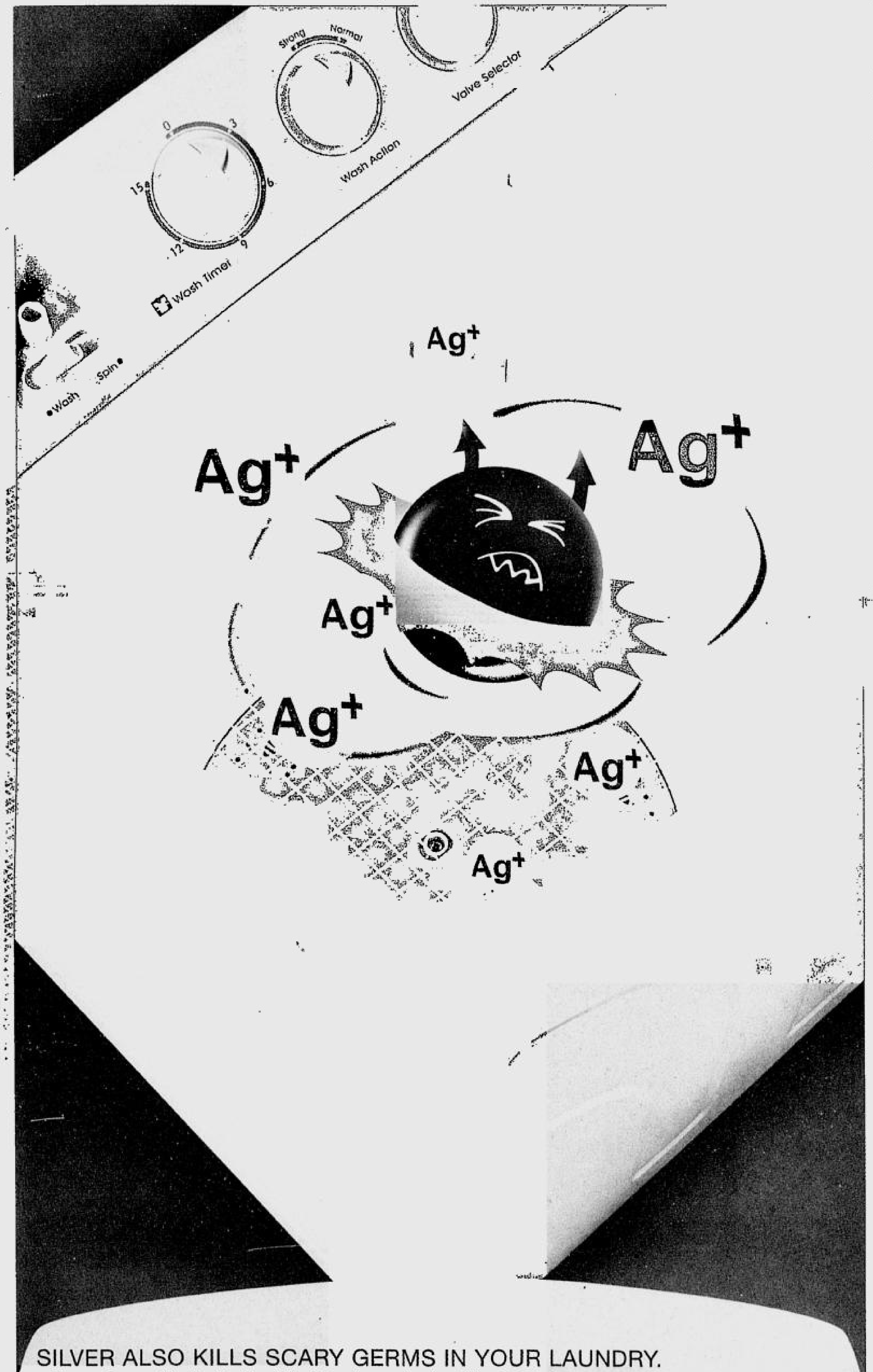
Chief Supt. Arturo Lomibao, PNP intelligence chief, said police were wary that some groups might be planning to exploit the PNP's preoccupation over Bush's state visit to Manila on Saturday and "do something" involving Estrada.

"There's actually no specific threat," he told the INQUIRER. "What we're doing is a preventive measure. It's about the personal safety of Mr. Estrada, and it's also for the good of everybody."

Lomibao also said any drastic move involving Estrada would embarrass the PNP and the government, especially because the international community would be monitoring the eight-hour Bush visit.

Noble told reporters that if Estrada's lawyers were really concerned about his safety, they would not oppose the petition.

"It is really a nightmare to secure the former President at [the VMMC] because we can't screen the people going in and out of the area," he said. *Reports from Volt Contreras, Christian V. Esguerra, Christine O. Avendaño and AFP*



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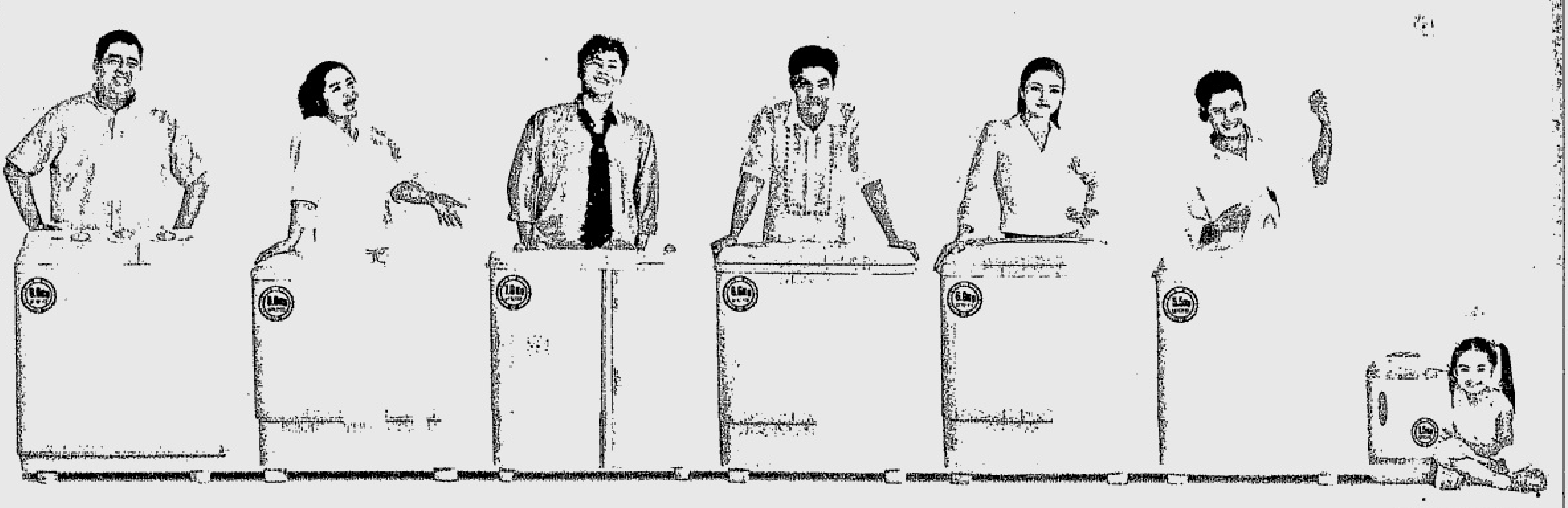

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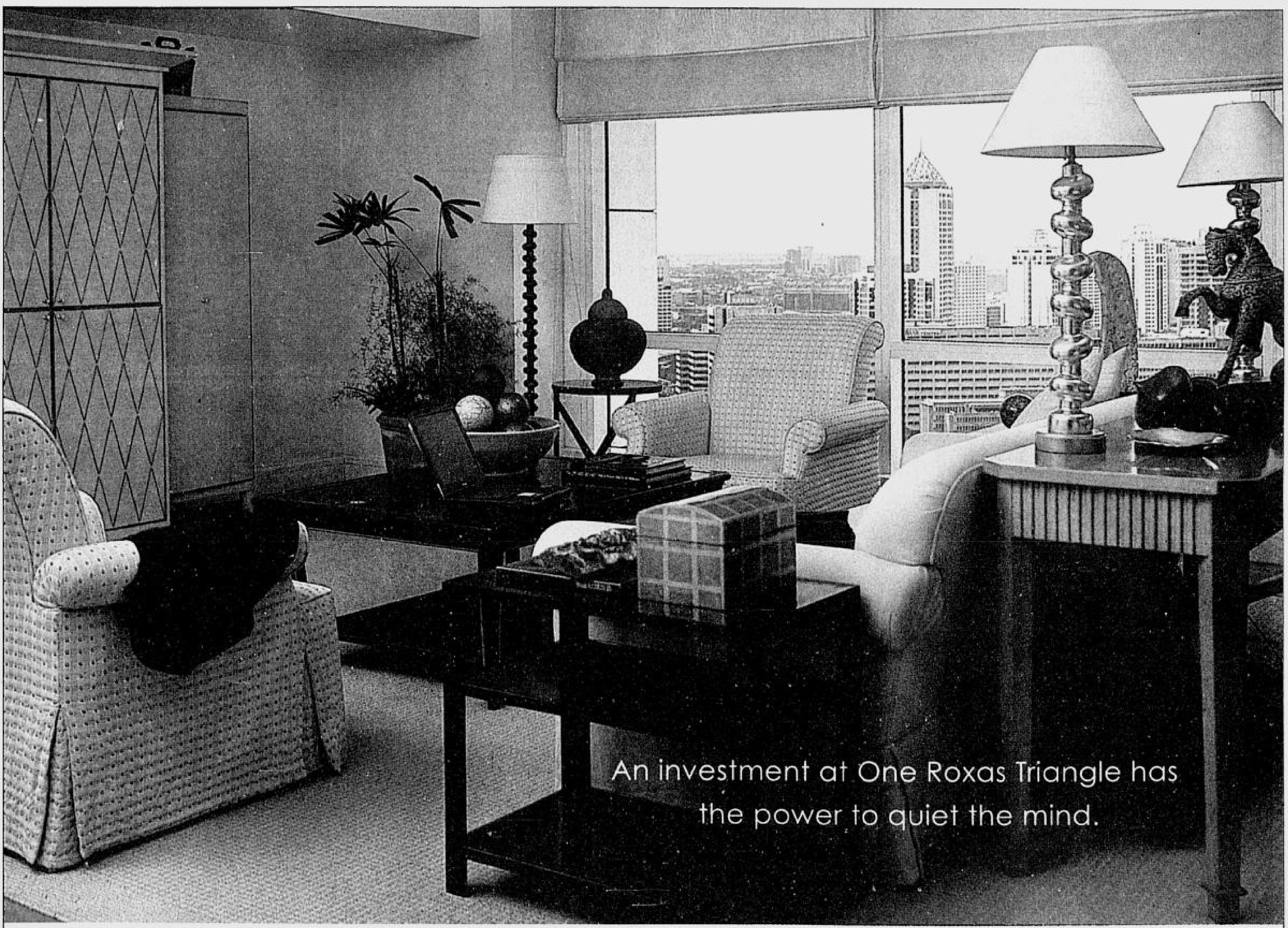
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Naia 3 extortion raps shock GMA

From page A1

Fraport said Gloria Tan-Climaco, then presidential adviser for strategic projects, and Avelino "Nonong" Cruz, the President's chief legal counsel, had made clear to the company that the ouster of the Cheng family from Philippine International Air Terminals Inc. (Piatco) would ensure the commercial success of the passenger terminal.

Fraport and the Cheng family are the major shareholders in Piatco, a consortium that was awarded the contracts to build and operate Naia 3.

The German company said the Philippine government nullified the contracts awarded to Piatco because it did not abide by the unlawful demands of the government. Fraport is seeking $425 million in compensation from the Philippine government.

"Tan-Climaco and Secretary Avelino Cruz were deeply involved in helping the prosecution of the case for the nullification of the Piatco contract which was ruled upon favorably by the Supreme Court. This makes the actions imputed against them seem ridiculous," Ms Macapagal said.

Last night, Sen. Joker Arroyo announced that the Senate blue ribbon committee, which he chairs, would look into the alleged attempt to extort money from Fraport.

"This is serious. This is embarrassing to the country," said Arroyo, pointing to the INQUIRER story on the decision of Fraport officials to lodge a formal complaint with the World Bank's arbitration tribunal.

Embarrassing

Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. called the alleged extortion "*nakakahiya* (embarrassing)."

"This Piatco thing is serious because it directly links the friends and advisers of the President," Guingona said in Dagupan City.

Ms Macapagal said she welcomed any probe by the World Bank and that she would also initiate a parallel probe of the charges if warranted by developments. "I want the truth to come out and there will be no coddling or cover-ups," she said.

In a statement, the Villaraza & Angangco law firm vehemently denied allegations that it attempted to extort money from Fraport.

Senior partner Raoul Angangco said his firm "does not and has never engaged in raising money for the President."

In the arbitration case it filed with the ICSID against the Philippine government, Fraport indicated that Villaraza was raising money for the President when he demanded millions of dollars from the company.

Angangco said the law firm met only once with Fraport general counsel Dietrich Stiller upon Fraport's repeated requests at a 20-minute briefing in February.

"We informed Mr. Stiller that we could not represent Fraport as it is the firm's policy not to accept any engagement which may eventually lead us to taking a position adverse to government. There was no discussion whatsoever in regard to fees, much less the manner in which it was to be paid," Angangco said.

He said "it was conveyed by Stiller that it was Fraport's intention to oust the Chengs from Naia 3.'"

The law firm presented a letter dated May 8 from Stiller to corroborate its claim that there was only one meeting with Fraport.

In his letter, Stiller said: I further confirm that no $20 million request or similar request was made by any member of your firm in, or in the context of, that meeting."

In another letter dated May 17, 2002, Fraport's then chief executive Wilhelm Bender apologized to Villaraza. "I assure and confirm to you that neither Fraport nor its representatives did intend to discredit your law firm or you personally in any way."

For her part, Climaco denied that she "strongly suggested" to Fraport that it tap the Villaraza and Angangco law office so the German firm could oust the Cheng family from Piatco.

"It is a story being peddled to tarnish the reputation of those who brought to light their shortcomings and corrupt practices," said Climaco, now a presidential consultant for strategic project.

Arm twisting

Climaco said she was shocked that the CEO of a multinational company could lie and threaten the Philippine government. "The suit before the World Bank is the company's way of twisting the arm of the Philippine government to get their money back," she said.

Climaco said one of Fraport's representatives told her the company wanted to look for a law firm to settle issues with the Chengs but was having a difficult time finding one because most major law firms had conflicts of interest.

She came to know about Fraport's problems when one of its representatives told her that the more Fraport infused money into Piatco, the more its shareholder rights were diluted.

"He disclosed to me that in reality, Fraport owns more than what the Constitution allows foreigners to have. He also told me that the Chengs infused so little ($10.6 million) and yet were exercising management control over Piatco in a manner not commensurate to the Chengs financial contribution," Climaco said.

She said Fraport had asked her about a law firm she could recommend. "I suggested they go through a listing of law firms and check who among those did not have a conflict of interest."

First, she suggested Castillo Laman Tan Pantaleon and San Jose because one of the partners Gregson Angara Castillo worked with her before at the SGV.

Climaco said she was later informed that Fraport and the Castillo firm had met. However, the firm declined to take on Fraport's case because of conflict of interest. Later, Fraport went to the Picazo Law office and Accra, but both firms also declined due to conflict of interest.

"I later learned that the engagement was declined. Later, I learned that Fraport eventually hired the Herrera Faylona Law office."

Climaco said Cruz, the President's chief legal counsel, was adamantly opposed to the idea of Fraport going to the Villaraza firm because he wanted to distance the controversial deal from a law firm associated with Ms Macapagal.

She denied she had any kind of professional relationship with the Villaraza firm even when she was chair of SGV.

Warehousing

Climaco also denied that she suggested to Fraport to "warehouse" shares belonging to the Cheng family in Piatco once Fraport ousted the family from the company until other Filipino groups could be brought in.

"On the contrary, the Fraport representatives said they would rather have the Philippine government as their partner and even offered two board seats. I told them that they could not just make such offers because they owned only 30 percent of Piatco. Then they came up with the idea of buying out the Chengs and requested that the Chengs' share be warehoused with the government. They had the nerve to offer the two seats to me," she said.

With reports from Michael Lim Ubac, Gerald Lacuarta and Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

RP gov't may lose . . .

From page A1

tration case if the government accepts Piatco's offer.

Based on its proposal, Piatco wants the government to make a guaranteed payment of no less than $427 million even before its books are audited and Naia 3 appraised. Piatco seeks $200 million in down payment, with the balance to be paid before the government takes possession of the passenger terminal.

The $427 million represents the costs related to the terminal's construction—the turnkey contract with Takenaka Corp., modifications in design and materials, insurance and regulator fees.

Alvarez noted that the 182,000-square meter Terminal 3 cost only $2,456 per square meter to build compared with the $2,836 cost per square meter for the 73,000-square meter Terminal 2.

Alvarez said Piatco's demands for compensation on its expenses for local and international consultants, administration, long-term financing, relocation fees and advances should push up the actual project cost to $523 million.

He said that under build-operate-and-transfer rules, Piatco should collect a reasonable rate of return on its investments worth $42 million, which should bring its total compensation to $565 million.

"We're only collecting a 5-percent rate of return or just a third of what the government is paying for the light railway projects," Alvarez said.

But Trade Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II, head of the Cabinet oversight committee on Naia 3, has recommended to President Macapagal-Arroyo that the government wait for the Supreme Court to decide on the amount to be paid to Piatco.

In the meantime, Roxas said the government could advance $90 million to complete the facility and and deduct this from the settlement package when the government takes control of the facility.

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Sayyaf detainee not yet off hook

POLICE officials are not about to let off easily the recaptured Abu Sayyaf detainee Omar Opik Lasal who claims credit for helping in tracking down slain Indonesian fugitive Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi.

They questioned why Lasal did not report to the authorities Al-Ghozi's plan to escape which he claimed to have known for a long time.

Chief Supt. Arturo Lomibao, the director of the PNP Intelligence Group, said Lasal's failure to report Al-Ghozi's escape and its coincidence with the visit of Australian Prime Minister John Howard continued to puzzle police.

"These questions are better answered by Lasal's handlers in the military," he told the INQUIRER.

A prosecutor in Zamboanga City, meanwhile, said the military had requested that the justice department study the possibility using Lasal as a state witness in the many cases filed against the Abu Sayyaf. *Christian V. Esguerra and Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

SC downplays House body's impeach vote

By Philip C. Tubeza

A HOUSE justice committee vote that found the impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hialrio Davide Jr. and seven other Supreme Court justices "sufficient in form" was not a matter for serious concern and should not trouble the public, a court official said yesterday.

"The real challenge is in the determination of substance. But personally, I doubt if that would also raise any concern," said Conrad Tolentino, director of the Supreme Court's public information office.

Tolentino explained that the committee vote on Tuesday was just part of the impeachment process. In deciding that the complaint was sufficient in form, the committee just checked if the documents and signatures in the complaint were complete, he said.

The committee is set to start debates next week on the complaint's merits.

Tolentino said the legislators would have realized by then that "there is no basis and they would just stop."

Lawyers of jailed ex-president Estrada filed the impeachment complaint against Davide and the seven justices for allegedly conspiring to oust him during the Edsa II people power uprising in 2001.

A lawyers' group, meanwhile, urged the Senate to apologize to the high court, particularly to Davide, for opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson's "merciless and barbaric attack against the highest court of the land" in his privilege speech on Monday.

Rick Abcede, chair of the Filipino Lawyers for Good Governance (Filgood), urged the Senate to pass a resolution and apologize to the high court for Lacson's tirade.

He said the Senate should "take stock of itself and stop allowing a fellow senator from utilizing its hallowed halls for his selfish political ends."

Lacson, claiming to be a victim of "judicial politics" when the Supreme Court revived the Kuratong Baleleng case against him last week, said he was tempted to fight the case on his own terms and "outside the rotten judicial system."

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, October 16, 2003
28th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	Rom 3:21-29
Gospel:	Lk 11:47-54

Jesus said to a teacher of the law, "A curse is on you, for you build memorials to the prophets your ancestors killed. So you approve and agree with what your ancestors did. Is it not so? They got rid of the prophets, and now you can build!"

(The Wisdom of God also said,) "I will send prophets and apostles and this people will kill and persecute some of them. But the present generation will have to answer for the blood of all the prophets that has been shed since the foundation of the world, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who was murdered between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, the people of this time will have to answer for them all.

"A curse is on you, teachers of the Law, for you have taken the key of knowledge. You yourselves have not entered, and you prevented others from entering."

As Jesus left that place, the teachers of the Law and the Pharisees began to harass him, asking him endless questions, setting traps to catch him in something he might say.

Commentary

"Because all have sinned and all fall short of the Glory of God; and all are graciously forgiven and made righteous through the redemption effected in Christ Jesus." I remember one of my theology professors who warned us about the danger of absolutizing. Accordingly we should avoid the words, "only by" rather it is better to use "not only but also". Some Jews thought that salvation comes only from the good works that come from following the Mosaic laws. Some Christians may have thought the same and so Paul tried to correct this idea by saying that redemption is first and foremost a grace coming from the death and resurrection of Jesus. But this grace of redemption can be rejected or accepted by an individual. Therefore, it is also necessarily man's cooperation, man's response to the offer of salvation. And this response should include the following of Jesus, his lifestyle, his values and his principles. And foremost of this life principle is the love for the last, the least and the less.

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BY R. B. VERA

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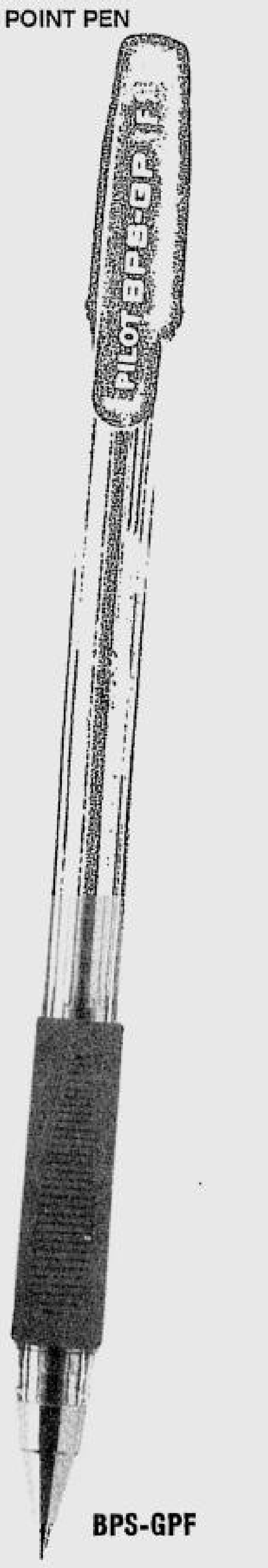

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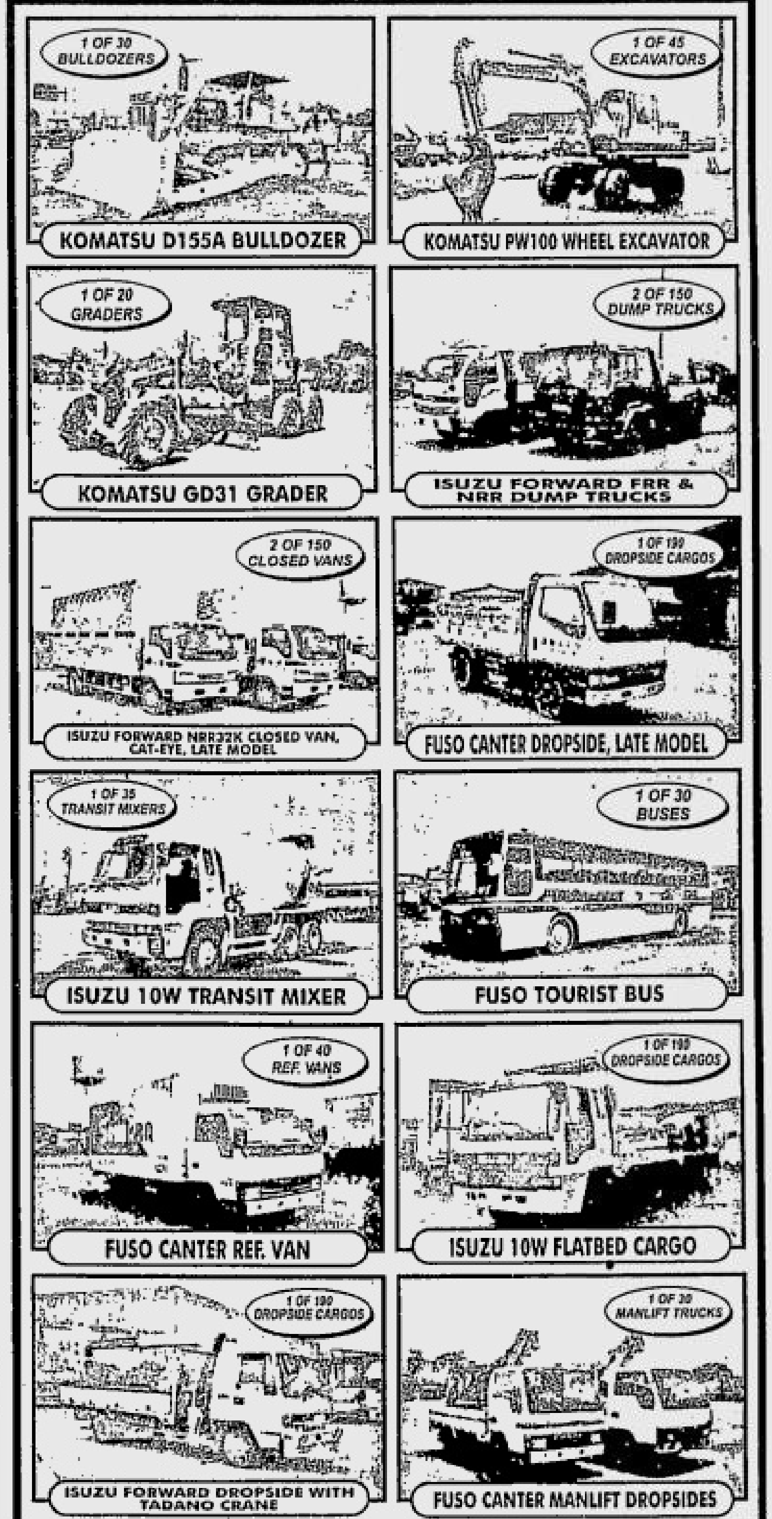

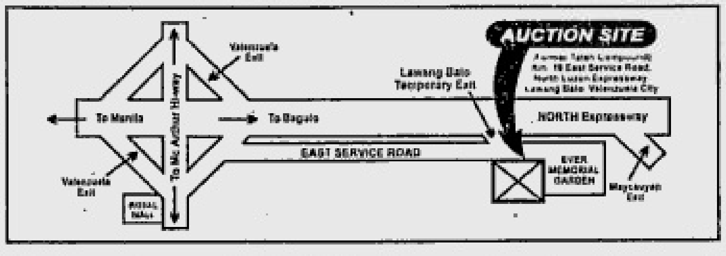

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Liftoff! China sends manned craft into orbit

From page A1

Jr. less than a month later. John Glenn became the first American in orbit in 1962.

Chinese President Hu Jintao, who watched the launch, called it "the glory of our great motherland."

"The party and the people will never forget those who have set up the outstanding merit in the space industry for the motherland, the people and the nation," Hu said.

Applause

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration applauded the launch.

"This launch is an important achievement in the history of human exploration," Nasa Administrator Sean O'Keefe said in a statement. "The Chinese people have a long and distinguished history of exploration. Nasa wishes China a continued safe human space flight program."

Security was tight around the remote Gobi Desert base, about 280 km northeast of Jiuquan.

On Wednesday morning, the only road to the launch site was crowded with traffic, including military vehicles and civilian tour buses. But private cars were turned back and phone calls to the base were blocked.

China kept details of the event secret, saying in advance only that the launch would take place between Wednesday and Friday and that the astronaut would orbit the Earth 14 times.

China Central Television's Channel One, the government's flagship station, cut into its programming to announce the launch and to say that Shenzhou 5 and Yang had "entered orbit at 9:10." The station later showed Shenzhou streaking into the sky and disappearing, its tracer billowing behind it.

The English-language government channel CCTV-9 invoked American astronaut Neil Armstrong's words upon first walking on the moon. If China's earlier unmanned space launches "were small steps," the announcer said, "then now we are taking a giant leap into space."

The Shenzhou 5 launch came after four test launches of unmanned capsules that orbited the Earth for nearly a week before parachuting back to China's northern grasslands.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Zhang Qiyue said earlier that the flight was a key step in the "peaceful development of space"—a reflection of China's effort to reassure the world that its military-linked program is benign.

The Shenzhou, or "Divine Vessel," is based on the three-seat Russian Soyuz capsule, though with extensive modifications. China also paid Moscow to train at least two astronauts.

But Beijing insists everything sent into space will be developed and made in China. State media, trying to dispel suggestions that its triumph depends on foreign know-how, refer to Shenzhou as "China's self-designed manned spaceship."

Astronaut's profile

Xinhua released a picture of Yang, a pilot since 1987 and an astronaut since 1998, boarding Shenzhou 5 about 8 a.m. Wednesday.

"I will not disappoint the motherland. I will complete each movement with total concentration. And I will gain honor for the People's Liberation Army and for the Chinese nation," the popular Chinese website Sina.com quoted Yang as saying before taking off.

Yang, who is 1.69 meters (5 feet, 6 inches) tall and comes from a family of teachers, already was being held up to China's population of 1.3 billion as an instant hero.

He has 1,350 hours of flight experience, the government said. Colleagues describe him as "miraculously dedicated," according to Xinhua.

Yang's clothing in flight consisted of 14 layers that took 15 minutes to don with the help of technicians, the general commander of the astronaut program, Su Shuangning, told Phoenix Television, a Hong Kong broadcaster with close ties to the mainland's military.

Yang's space suit cost more than US$12 million, Su said.

Yang was selected Tuesday from a pool of three finalists. The astronauts have been training for years, and the field of candidates was narrowed from 14 in recent days.

Yang was born in Youzhong County in Liaoning province, an industrial area in China's northeast.

Sina quoted his older sister as saying he was an athletic child who enjoyed swimming and ice skating. He works for the Aviation Military Unit of China's People's Liberation Army, Chinese media said.

State television scrapped plans for a live broadcast of the launch, suggesting that leaders were unnerved by the thought of the propaganda disaster that an accident could produce.

China used to broadcast satellite launches live, but stopped in 1995 after a rocket blew up moments after liftoff, reportedly killing six people on the ground.

Space officials earlier assured the public that the astronauts' space suits were safe and the Long March CZ-2 F booster was China's "best rocket."

"Finally," a Chinese newspaer said, "the time has come to realize the 1,000-year dream of flying dreamed by the sons and daughters of China." *AP*

Apec leaders' dress code: Thai silk shirts

From page A1

their traditional photo session.

They will also be using personalized six-piece, five-color Benjarong ceramic dinner sets during their meals.

Apec organizers said the Thai Phra Rajathan shirts have gold brocade of animal or flower patterns on mostly burgundy-colored fabric. Most leaders will get shirts featuring animals, including creatures from Thai mythology such as elephant-lion hybrids, birds and peacocks, but shirts for Muslim leaders will feature flowers since Islam rejects representations of animals.

The silk shirts were valued at about 90,000 baht ($2,200) apiece.

It's an Apec tradition for leaders to don attire of their host country when winding up their meetings, usually adding an air of informality to the proceedings. They wore *batik* shirts during the meeting in Indonesia and *barong Tagalog* during the summit in Subic.

The leaders' wives and the three women leaders attending the meeting—President Macapagal; New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark and Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri—will be given shawls, each 2.3 meters long and worth about 79,000 baht ($2,000).

The husbands of the three women leaders will receive ties and cufflinks.

Painstaking work

Weavers in Tha Sawang village, 340 km from Bangkok, started work on the Apec shirts in April. It took one month for five people working on a loom to create three meters of the special fabric which used natural dyes.

The weavers angled wooden poles and plastic tubes through tiny rows of fine silk threads on more than 20 looms, and labored diligently to meet their deadlines.

One loom creates about a five cm-long fabric each day.

SUNISA Saechua displays silk shirts at a shop in Bangkok, to be worn by world leaders during the upcoming Apec meet. The one-of-a-kind silk shirt that will be worn by world leaders like US President George W. Bush and Japan Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi cost more than $2,000 each. AP

Weeradhamma Taragoonngernthai, a teacher of traditional Thai arts, was asked by the government to create the fabric's design.

He worked off a design that was popular more than 300 years ago, when King Narai the Great opened up the area to foreign traders.

Weeradhamma sees a link between King Narai and Apec, since Apec is "about economics and trade between countries."

There's no room for error in making the clothing since the shirts and shawls could go on display in national museums or collections.

Weavers at one loom were told to redo about three cm of work because of a variation in color—a small but disappointing setback.

$2,500 dinner sets

The personalized dinner sets, made by master craftsman Virat Pinsuwan, reportedly cost about 100,000 baht ($2,500) each.

Each set is unique, incorporating a color scheme based on the birthdates of the heads of states, organizers said.

After the event, which has been scheduled from Oct. 20 and 21, the dinner sets will be given to the Apec leaders.

Thai food to be served during the gala dinner include rice noodles, curried duck meat, fried spring rolls, shrimps rolled in wheat rolls, crisp-fried catfish and tom yam soup.

Other treats

Ms Macapagal and her entourage will get to witness the Royal Barge Procession on the Chao Phya River on the night of Oct. 20 where about 2,000 oarsmen will be paddling on 52 vessels. The vessels will be highlighted by the royal barge Suphannahongse, the figurehead of which is featured in Apec posters here.

Journalists covering the summit are being offered a free 30-minute Thai foot massage at the media center located at the Queen Sirikit Convention Center.

Giveaways to Apec delegates include celadon elephants, incense holders, khon masks, Hermès scarves and neckties.

Apec's members are Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, United States and Vietnam. *With an AP report*

OIC rejects anew ...

From page A1

Buat said, explaining why the country's application was rejected.

Philippine officials attending the 10th OIC Summit being held at the Putrajaya World Convention Center (PWCC) here could not immediately be reached for comment.

President Macapagal-Arroyo flew to Malaysia yesterday to observe the opening of the OIC summit upon the invitation of Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, incoming OIC chair.

In her departure statement, Ms Macapagal said the trip would have an "important bearing" in her government's quest to bring a negotiated settlement to a 25-year Moro separatist rebellion in Mindanao and the fight on terrorism.

Peace mission

The President said her trip to Kuala Lumpur was meant to seek the support of Islamic countries to the government's peace and development efforts in Mindanao.

She described her attendance at the OIC meet as historic. "This is the first time a Philippine head of state joins the gathering of Muslim leaders in the world," Ms Macapagal noted.

Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita yesterday said he was not aware that the country's application to replace the MNLF in the OIC had been rejected.

According to Ermita, the country's application, which was only submitted recently, was still being considered for the plenary.

Indonesia has been vigorously pushing for the approval of the country's application for observer status.

During last year's meeting of the Committee of the Eight in Tehran, Indonesia had solicited the support of other Arab countries, including Libya, but committee members decided that the MNLF should continue to represent the Muslims in the Philippines.

With the rejection, Buat said, there was already a zero chance that the Philippines' application could ever be tackled by the main body of the 57-member Islamic body.

"If a country's application failed to move past the committee, then it is already killed," he said.

ARMM

Prior to the rejection, Muslim leaders in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) were optimistic the committee would approve the application of the Philippines. "We support the government in its desire to acquire an observer status in the OIC," ARMM Gov. Parouk Hussin had said.

Hussin said it was high time for the OIC to consider the country's membership application because the MNLF is already part of the government.

But Buat said the MILF had always believed the OIC would be fair enough and would continue to deny the government's bid.

"Unlike Thailand, the Philippines could not claim it represents the Muslim community," he said.

Thailand, whose application had been accepted, has a small Muslim population and is a predominantly Buddhist country. King Bhumibol is a Buddhist but the monarchy's prime minister is a Muslim.

Unlike the Philippines, Thailand has been judged as representing its Muslim minority because it created an office for a grand mufti or Muslim spiritual adviser.

Ms Macapagal is also expected to discuss with Mahathir the resumption of peace talks with the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front later this month in Kuala Lumpur.

She said that her administration would keep the doors to peace and development open while seeking the keys to peace.

She left Manila at 1:55 p.m. on board a Philippine Airlines flight with nine Cabinet and other officials in tow. The President would be back in Manila today.

She was accompanied by Ermita, Hussin, Foreign Secretary Blas Ople, her spokesperson Ignacio Bunye, her adviser on the peace process Teresita Quintos-Deles, chief government negotiator for the MILF Silvestre Afable Jr., her adviser on special concerns Norberto Gonzales, and Philippine Ambassador to Malaysia Mohammad Taufik Noor.

OIC summit

The OIC summit is being held in Putrajaya, Malaysia, a designer-city of domes and spires, a half-hour drive south of Kuala Lumpur.

The summit, in this newly built administrative capital of Malaysia, will be the biggest meeting of Islamic leaders since their world was shaken by the fallout from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

OIC Secretary General Abdelouahed Belkeziz set the tone for the conference when he opened a preparatory meeting with the warning that the Muslim world faced dangers "probably unequalled in contemporary Islamic history." *With an AFP report*

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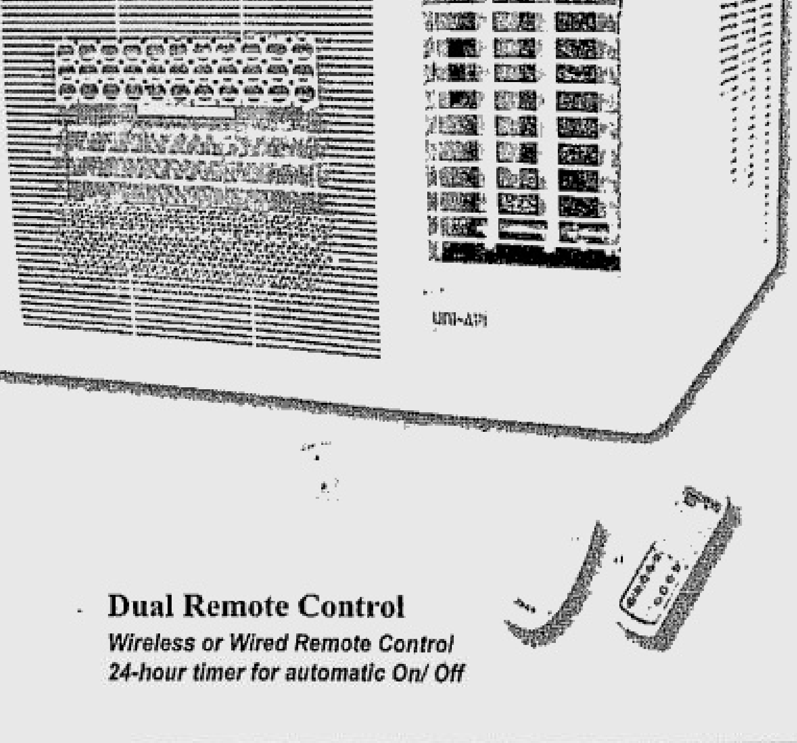

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2987, Series of 2003

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

3 US guards killed in Gaza Strip blast

BEIT LAHIYA, Gaza Strip—A massive explosion ripped through a US diplomatic vehicle Wednesday, killing at least three American security guards in the first attack on US targets in the past three years of Israel-Palestinian fighting.

Israeli radio reports said four Americans were killed.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. Islamic militants, responsible for the bulk of shooting and bombing attacks on Israelis in the past three years, refrained in the past from widening their choice of targets.

The United States is the main mediator in the conflict, and has repeatedly been accused by Palestinians of being biased against them.

The blast went off at 10:15 a.m. Wednesday as a three-car US diplomatic convoy drove near a gas station on the outskirts of the town of Beit Lahiya in the northern Gaza Strip, along the main north-south road.

The explosion apparently was set off by a remote-control roadside bomb, though Palestinian security officials initially said a suicide bomber jumped in front of the vehicle.

The explosion tore the van in half and left the wreckage twisted with the tires up in the air. The pavement was stained with blood and littered with bits of flesh.

An AP reporter saw a gray wire with an on-off switch leading from the scene of the attack to a small concrete room at the side of the road.

Mohammed Radwan, a Palestinian taxi driver, said he was at the gas station when the blast went off.

"I was about to fill up my car with gas when I saw the American convoy passing," Radwan said. "There was a Palestinian police car in front and then three big (US) cars. When the third one passed, an explosion went off."

"The first two cars drove quickly and stopped far form the explosion. Palestinian security people jumped out of the car and rushed to the car that had blown up. When I tried to approach them, they shouted at me to leave. I saw two people covered with blood lying next to the car."

Palestinian officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said three Americans were killed and one was wounded. Israeli radio reports put the number of dead at four.

US diplomatic sources said the people in the targeted car were security guards for the US diplomats traveling in the other vehicles.

The bodies of two Americans were taken to local hospitals, one in Gaza City and one in the nearby Jebaliya refugee camp, Palestinian officials said.

Israeli radio reports said CIA officials were traveling in the convoy. Palestinian officials said the diplomats were US monitors who are to supervise implementation of the US-backed "road map" peace plan. *AP*

Only the best Chinese food for astronaut as he orbits

BEIJING—Now THAT'S Chinese takeout.

Lt. Col. Yang Liwei, China's first human being in space, is spending some of his time kilometers above the earth eating from his choice of 20 Chinese dishes—including one-bite nuggets of spicy shredded pork, diced chicken and fried rice cooked "with nuts, dates and other delicacies."

"The astronaut will enjoy himself over a rich variety of Chinese food," the government's Xinhua News Agency reported after Yang was safely in orbit. The agency's rather emphatic headline: "Chinese food for Chinese astronauts."

"We planned the recipes in a scientific way, in such a way as to ensure that the food will be nutritious enough for space missions while tasting good," Su Shuangning, head of China's astronaut program, was quoted as saying.

"It must suit the astronaut's physiological changes in the weightless situation," Su said.

Yang, who was launched in Shenzhou 5 on Wednesday morning, will also drink medicinal herbs and tonics after his meal to assist digestion.

Xinhua said Chinese food in space should "be limited in quantity and size but highly nutritious."

Soviet and American space pioneers consumed some of their meals as liquid or semi-solid food that came from tubes. Today, such novelties as "space ice cream"— dry and crispy, in a foil envelope—are for sale in places like the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum.

That's changed, China says. "Astronauts now can eat roughly the same way as when they are on earth," Xinhua said. *AP*

FIRST Chinese astronaut Yang Liwei walks toward China's first manned spacecraft Shenzhou 5 before its blasting off at Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China's Gansu province on Oct. 15. AP

China's space launch hailed, feared in Asia

TAIPEI—China's launch of its first manned spacecraft left some Asians flushed with pride Wednesday, while others saw it as worrying evidence of the communist giant's growing power.

"I am very happy. We finally made it. Not many countries can reach space," said Alexander Chow, 27, an accountant in the China-ruled territory of Hong Kong. "It's a day that every Chinese is proud of."

Angeline Lo, 22, a Hong Kong medical student, added: "I am delighted. It marks a breakthrough in China's space development."

But in Japan, Miki Kobayashi, 28, said the launch marked a defeat for her country, which has seen its once-mighty economy decline as China's has grown rapidly in recent years.

"I feel like we have lost," said Kobayashi, a dental hygienist in Tokyo. "Japan had worked so hard on its space program. I guess China is rich. I hope Japan can catch up again."

China has explicitly said it opposes the "weaponization" of space. But some worried that the launch was a sign that China's military was becoming more powerful and could become a new global bully.

"China is more of a threat than ever. Not just for Asia, but for the whole world," said Akira Machida, 54, a white collar worker in Tokyo.

But a spokesperson for Japan's space agency praised China's accomplishment and said it could benefit space technology worldwide. "It seems we have a new rival. But since this is not a war, China is not a threat," said Hiroshi Inoue.

Kind words also came from Vietnam, which has long had an uneasy relationship with China. The Vietnamese fought a border war with the Chinese in 1979—China's last major foreign conflict.

"This will be a great achievement of China in conquering outer space," Vietnam's foreign ministry spokesperson Le Dung said in a statement.

Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf sent congratulations to his Chinese counterpart, Hu Jintao. "We share this joy of the Chinese people," Musharraf said.

Sujit Dutta, a China analyst at New Delhi's Institute of Defense and Strategic Studies said the launch "raises China's profile in Asia and in the world." *AP*

Researchers propose earth-space elevator

LOS ALAMOS, New Mexico—Researchers are proposing an elevator reaching 100,000 kilometers into the sky that would be able to launch payloads into space at a far lower cost than the space shuttle.

The Los Alamos National Laboratory scientists are so convinced it can be a reality that they are working on their own time on technical details. Five to 10 scientists at any given time are analyzing the economics, technical specifications of how the elevator would work and possible health risks to those using it.

Lab scientist Bryan Laubscher said researchers were hoping the US Department of Energy could someday use the information to start investing in a space elevator.

"The first country that owns the space elevator will own space," Laubscher said. "I believe that, and I think Los Alamos should be involved in making that happen."

The elevator shaft would be made of a strong, thin, lightweight material called carbon nanotubes. The shaft, really a 32 million-story-tall cable, would be carried into orbit on a conventional spacecraft, then gradually dropped down to Earth and attached to an ocean platform along the equator.

Solar-powered crawlers would move up and down the elevator, carrying payloads of satellites or probes to be placed in Earth's orbit or beyond. They also would attach additional cables to the main shaft that eventually would become new elevators.

"It would create huge, huge savings over how we launch stuff now," said Ron Morgan, a health scientist working on the project. "From the top of it, we could throw things off to Mars or to the inner solar system. Launching those things on conventional rockets costs a fortune." *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Opposition told to show respect for Bush

CANBERRA—Members of the opposition Labor Party have been ordered to show "normal respect" to US President George W. Bush when he speaks to Australia's parliament next week, the party's leader said. There's been speculation that Labor legislators—angry at the US policy on Iraq and Prime Minister John Howard's staunch support for it—would turn their backs on the president as a symbolic gesture. But Labor chief Simon Crean says he wants Bush treated with respect when the American president addresses Parliament next Thursday. *AP*

Rally planned despite Thai gov't ban

BANGKOK—Hundreds of activists plan to gather at a downtown shopping mall for an anti-US protest during the Apec meeting being held in Bangkok, organizers said Wednesday, in defiance of a government ban on such protests during the conference. About 1,000 protesters plan to demonstrate at the World Trade Center on Sunday and march to a nearby intersection, said Suriyasai Katasila, secretary general of the Campaign for Popular Democracy. The protesters plan to stage parody plays, portraying the United States as an arrogant power that refuses to follow the United Nations, Suriyasai said. The main targets of the protest are the US war on Iraq, free trade and globalization, he said. *AP*

Thai Airways to fly sky marshals

BANGKOK—Thai authorities have banned nonscheduled flights over Bangkok, and Thai Airways is deploying sky marshals on its flights amid increased security for next week's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, officials said Wednesday. The airspace over Bangkok is be declared a no-fly zone from Sunday to Wednesday for charter flights, private aircraft, ultralight aircraft and motorized paragliders. *AP*

Swiss diplomat raped in India capital

NEW DELHI—A Swiss diplomat was abducted and raped by two men as she left the International Film Festival in the Indian capital, New Delhi, according to information from police and Swiss foreign ministry officials. The woman, from the consular section of the Swiss Embassy in New Delhi, was raped in her car by two men who attacked her in an auditorium parking lot after she'd watched one of the film festival's movies, the officials said Wednesday. The crime Tuesday night shocked city residents already outraged by a case in which four elite presidential guards were arrested last week on charges of raping a woman in a city park. *AP*

Thailand puts its best foot forward

BANGKOK—When Thai authorities offered free massages to journalists covering the Apec meeting, they weren't pulling anyone's leg. Or were they?

Since the free foot massages started at the international media center on Sunday, more than 300 local and foreign journalists have had their feet probed and pampered. And there are a few thousand more in line.

Reclining on sofas amid a faux rural backdrop, reporters have happily bared their soles to 10 expert masseuses and masseurs armed with fragrant lotion, herbal oil and nimble fingers.

They rub tired feet and knead aching tendons with their strong, well-trained thumbs.

"I've never seen something like this before... It's the most impressive things about Apec," said Mee Ping Law, 38, a reporter for Hong Kong's Apple Daily Online.

About 4,000 journalists are registered to cover the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting, which climaxes with the Oct. 20-21 summit of 21 leaders, including US President George W. Bush.

The government set up the 30-minute foot massage service as part of its efforts to promote Thai culture and tradition.

One masseuse, 41-year-old Daowana Mulasat, said she knew the 12-hour work day would be tiring and not worth the money—but she said she was happy to help Thailand put its best foot forward.

"I try and relax them, but some of them yell with pain when I squeeze the meridian points on the calf," Daowana said with a burst of laughter. Meridian points are crucial spots where massage therapists apply pressure.

The foot massage service aims to help foreigners understand the difference between ancient Thai massage and the sleazy variety which have become a Bangkok stereotype.

"Many still misunderstand," said Pennapa Subcharoen, the Traditional Medicine Foundation's deputy director general.

She said the foot massage technique was adapted from Thai and Chinese traditions to balance comfort and healing power—but she warned that many foreigners can't stand the pain that sometimes comes with the pleasure.

"But to tell you the truth, the harder, the better. It hurts... but soon you are walking in the air," she said. *AP*

Free all detainees, Nobel winner urges

TEHRAN—Nobel Peace Prize laureate Shirin Ebadi demanded Wednesday that Iran's rulers free all political prisoners and detainees.

"I hope political prisoners and journalists would be freed as soon as possible," Ebadi told her first news conference in Iran since she won the prize in a surprise decision Friday.

Dozens of political activists, journalists and others have been jailed on vague charges of working against the Islamic establishment.

Ebadi, 56, a lawyer and rights activist, is hailed by reformers as a new beacon for their embattled effort to weaken the clerics' monopoly on power.

Her supporters hope Ebadi could use her international stature to force concessions from the regime. But Ebadi said she had no plans to stand in elections.

"I will never seek political power. A human rights activist should be among the people and speak for the silent population," Ebadi told the press conference. *AP*

BIKE STUNT

Foydor Petrishchev, 25, performs a bike stunt at the Moscow Manezhnaya Square, in the twilight on Oct. 14 with some of the Moscow's landmarks in the background. AP

Standing next to fat person bad for image

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida—While it is no surprise that people often have a low opinion of the overweight, a new study finds that just standing next to a large person can be bad for one's image.

The experiment, conducted in England, demonstrates the depths of stigmatization endured by heavy people: It even rubs off on their friends.

Trying to combat discrimination against the overweight is a topic of discussion at this week's meeting in Fort Lauderdale of the North American Association for the Study of Obesity, the field's top professional organization.

Even here, though, another study suggests that obesity specialists themselves may harbor subtle, if unintentional, negative attitudes toward their patients.

"Weight stigma is powerful, pervasive and destructive," said Marlene Schwartz, a Yale psychologist.

In the English study, psychologist Jason Halford and colleagues from the University of Liverpool tested 144 female students' reactions to two prom photos. One showed a dapper, thin young man standing next to a svelte ringlet-haired woman. The other was the same photo altered to show the guy arm-in-arm with a very large, nicely dressed woman.

The volunteers took a quick look at one or the other of the pictures and then were asked their opinion of the man. They rated him from one to 5 on 50 negative adjectives—called the "fat phobia scale"—that people often use to describe obese people.

The man with the big woman was rated 22 percent more negatively than the same man with the thin companion. When seen with the large woman, he was more likely to be described as miserable, self-indulgent, passive, shapeless, depressed, weak, insignificant and insecure.

"It shows that people project negative attitudes associated with obesity not only on the obese but all those who associate with them," Halford said.

The study also found that students who were themselves overweight were more likely than usual to rate the man harshly when pictured with the obese partner.

At the same obesity meeting two years ago, researchers give a word quiz, called an implicit association test, to about 200 obesity professionals. The test, intended to measure bias, asks people to quickly link up words like "lazy," "stupid" and "worthless" on command with obese or thin people.

The results, described at this year's meeting, showed that obesity professionals were more apt to link the negative words with overweight people, even when trying not to. *AP*

HIV carrier guilty of infecting lovers

LONDON—When he chatted up women, tall, well-dressed Mohammed Dica pretended to be a lawyer and a veteran of the 1991 Persian Gulf war. But his bravado hid a terrible secret—he was HIV-positive.

The 38-year-old was convicted Tuesday on two counts of causing grievous bodily harm by "coldly and callously" infecting two lovers with the virus that leads to AIDS. The case is the first time in more than a century that someone has been successfully prosecuted in England and Wales for passing on a sexually transmitted disease.

Dica, from Mitcham, south of London, denied the charges, saying both women had known of his condition before sleeping with him.

But prosecutors told the Inner London Crown Court that he conned his first victim into having unprotected sex by claiming he had had a vasectomy and wooed the second, a mother of two, with declarations of love.

The second woman sobbed in court Tuesday as the jury of six men and six women gave their decision.

Refusing Dica's application for bail, Judge Nicholas Philpot said, "If I had to sentence him today there would be no doubt he would be going to prison and for a long time."

Philpot also rejected a defense request to commission a psychiatric report into Dica's behavior. He ordered Dica to return to court on Nov. 3 for the presentation of reports on sentencing; Dica faces up to five years' imprisonment for each offense.

Dica's second victim, identified only as Deborah for legal reasons, said she met him at a south London nightclub.

She was in a foundering relationship and within weeks they were lovers, she said. "Basically everything I wanted was in that man... I would have done anything for him."

Dica, who pretended he was separated from his wife, promised Deborah marriage and more children. "He was like a prince in shining armor, saying all the right things. He was a lawyer, a Gulf War veteran, and so on," which turned out to be lies, she said.

Soon after she left her partner for him, she said, he disappeared. Her health began to deteriorate and she discovered she was HIV-positive.

"If he had been honest from the beginning, I'd never have had an affair with him. I'd have run a mile," she said. "My sentence has just begun. But I can now move on, knowing that justice has been done."

In 1866, a defendant called Bennett was convicted of indecent assault after infecting his niece with gonorrhea. In 1888, a jury at London's Old Bailey court found a man named Clarence guilty of grievous and actual bodily harm for giving his wife the same disease. *AP*

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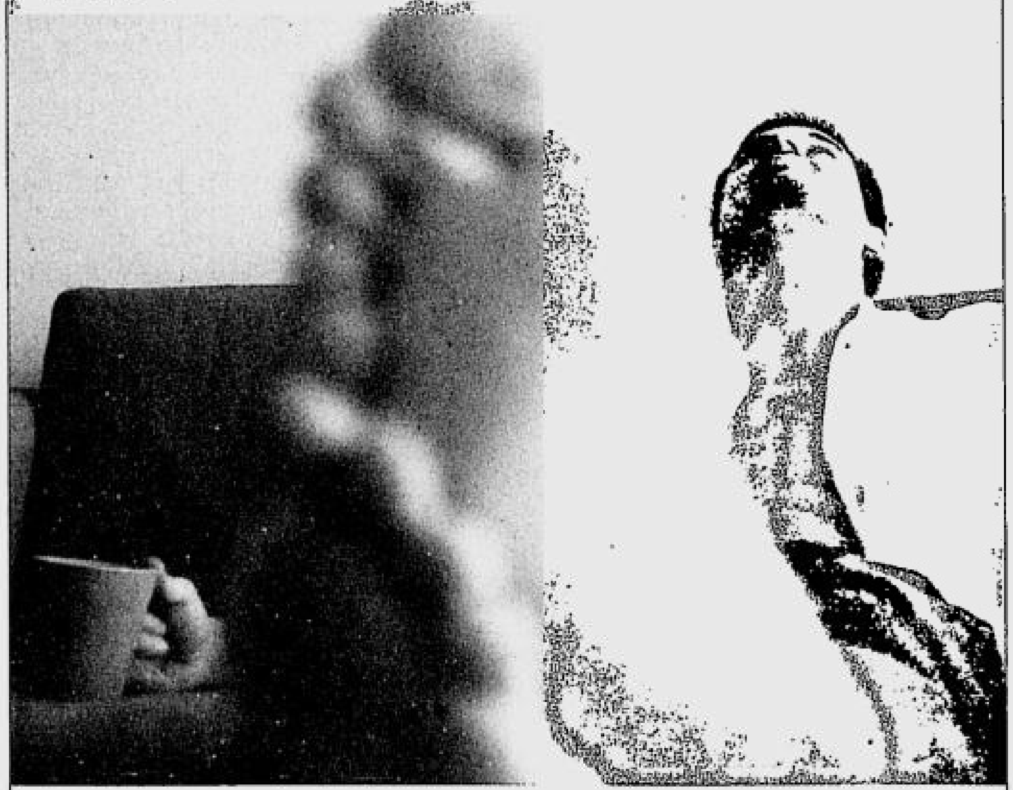

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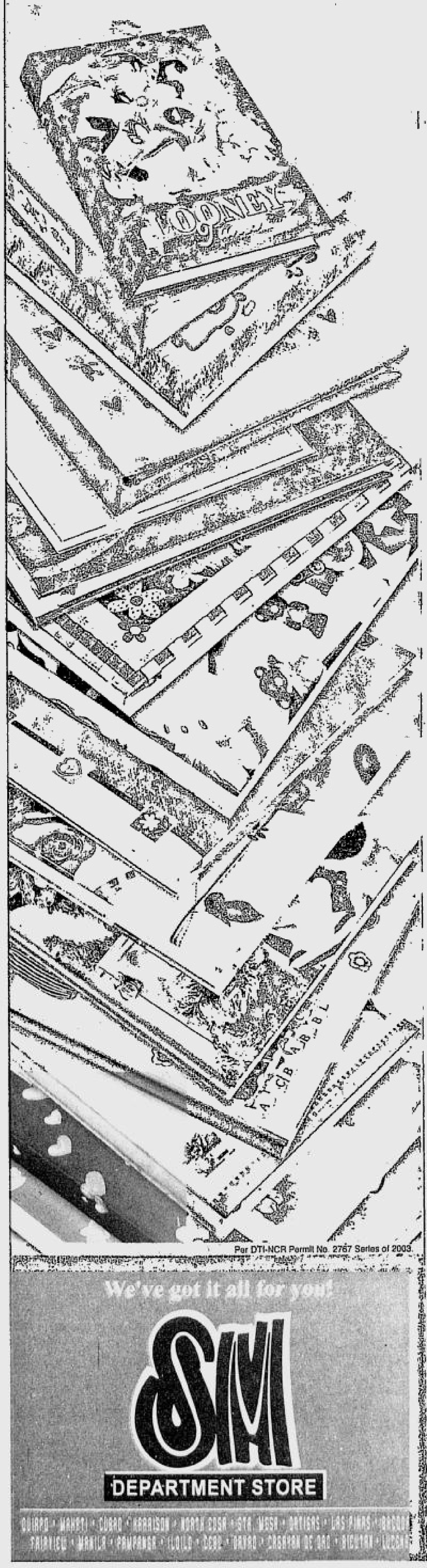

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Preemption

EDITORIAL

THE DEATH of escaped Indonesian terrorist Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi represents the Philippine edition of the doctrine of preemption that has underpinned US President George W. Bush's decision to invade Afghanistan and Iraq. The philosophical rationale behind this doctrine says you should hit the suspected terrorist enemy before he harms you. In the case of Iraq, for example, the Bush administration decided to invade on the flimsy justification that Saddam Hussein possessed weapons of mass destruction and that his regime has provided sanctuary to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist organization.

Months after the fall of Saddam, the Bush administration is hard put to present evidence on the WMDs and the link between Saddam and Osama bin Laden. What is now emerging is that Bush ordered the invasion on false pretenses. As a result, his reelection in 2004 is now in doubt. His popularity has taken a steep dive as the casualties of American occupation troops have risen along with the costs of reconstruction.

The killing of Al-Ghozi is another application of the Bush doctrine. Thus, the US president can be expected to express great pleasure over this development when he comes visiting this Saturday, never mind the controversy surrounding the killing of the top Jemaah Islamiyah operative.

Al-Ghozi's death has removed a security nightmare for the Macapagal administration during the Bush visit. Al-Ghozi was a critical test for the ability of the administration to fight terrorists. His removal does not make Jemaah Islamiyah less of a terrorist threat, but it does at least make up for the embarrassment caused by his escape from the national headquarters of the Philippine National Police.

On the eve of his departure for his six-nation Asian swing, which culminates in his participation at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Bangkok, Bush told the Singapore Straits Times that terrorism would be the key focus of his visit. "There's no question that Southeast Asia has seen its share of violence from terrorist activities," he said. "One of the key agenda items on my trip is to discuss terror. And to remind people that we are dealing with cold-blooded killers."

Reports from Washington say that Bush is concerned over the activities of Jemaah Islamiyah in Southeast Asia. According to these reports, the United States has indicated that it believes some countries in the region have not been putting their weight behind the effort to combat terrorism. A retired American diplomat posted in Southeast Asia said, "Publicly, Mr. Bush will praise the Philippines and Indonesia, but privately he will express serious concerns."

Bush is also expected to press for contributions from Asian nations to the recovery effort in Iraq.

In Indonesia, Bush is scheduled to meet several key Muslim leaders, including those of Nadhatul Ulama and Muhammadiyah, to win over moderate Muslim groups. These two organizations, which have a combined membership of about 60 million, are seen as a bulwark against Islamic extremism.

The killing of Al-Ghozi was greeted with relief by the rest of the region. His escape from PNP custody had raised fears of new bombing campaigns by Jemaah Islamiyah.

Bush's praise will be most welcome to President Macapagal-Arroyo who is seeking military and economic aid from the United States to boost not only the Philippines' capacity to combat terrorism but also her electoral chances in May 2004.

Don't mock Arnold

FOREIGN COMMENT

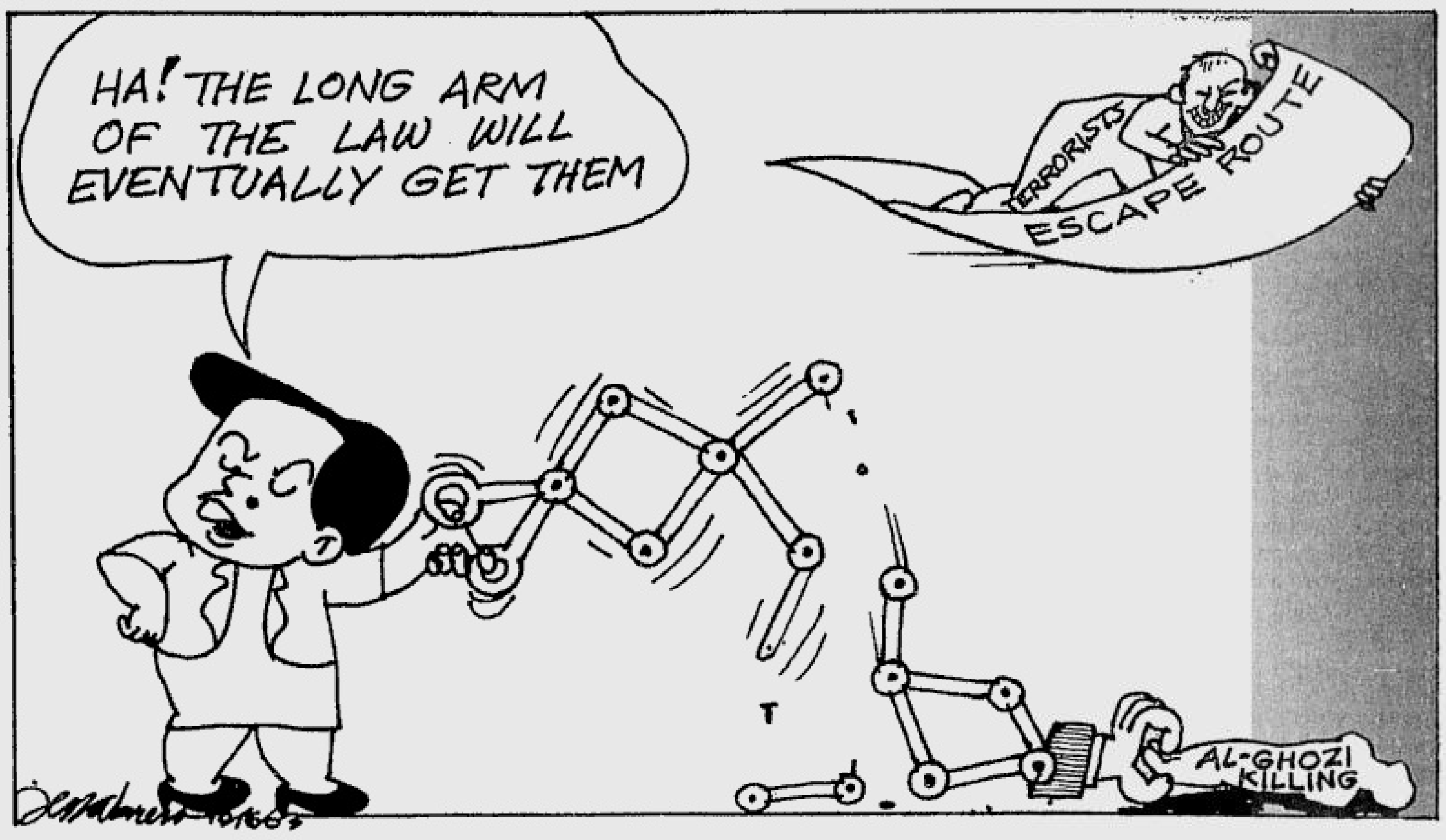
YOU shouldn't mock Arnold Schwarzenegger; what California invents, America adopts and Europe ends up imitating. You can laugh at the "Terminator," running for governor of America's most populous state, stomping through his speeches with the strongest teutonic accent since Henry Kissinger.

You can denounce the populist wave (that supported) Schwarzenegger's candidacy as an example of a democracy gone mad. But this is the same kind of groundswell that made Ronald Reagan the first actor to be elected governor of California, and then president.

Celebrity isn't Schwarzenegger's only asset. He's in tune with a changing political map. Voters from Latin America represent 30 million Hispanic citizens nationwide.

Yet California can't just be reduced to the glitter of Hollywood; for the weak, the poor and blacks, it's a tough place to live. Schwarzenegger must not forget this truth: like all promised lands, California is also a place of hardship.

Le Figaro (Paris)


HA! THE LONG ARM OF THE LAW WILL EVENTUALLY GET THEM
TERRORISTS
ESCAPE ROUTE
AL-GHOZI KILLING

After Kuratong 'rubout' by PNP, another one?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

ISN'T it ironic that only a few days after the Supreme Court reopened the Kuratong Baleleng rubout case against former PNP Director General Panfilo Lacson and others, here comes the PNP being accused again of another rubout: that of Indonesian terrorist Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi?

The PNP said it was a "shootout," which was also their justification in the Kuratong Baleleng massacre for which 36 police officers and men will be tried.

Ever since I can remember, the police are suspected of a rubout whenever a suspect or an escaped prisoner is killed in an incident in which there were no credible witnesses. Victims were killed "while trying to escape" or when they "fought back." Many police reporters have witnessed notorious criminals being taken to isolated places by policemen, told to run and then gunned down. The next morning, the stories in the newspapers said they were killed while trying to escape.

When I was a beginning journalist, I was coopted by two public information officers of the defense department, two majors who were close friends, to write a detailed story about the killing of a notorious Huk commander reported killed days before. They spent some time concocting, with me listening, how the commander walked into a trap set up by a military officer who was decorated for the murder. I knew then that that was not the real story, but I wrote their version anyway because I didn't know the real story and I was just a beginner who didn't know any better.

Years later, when I was already an editor, one of our police reporters came to me late one night shaking and chain-smoking cigarettes. He had just witnessed a police character executed by policemen while "trying to escape." An incumbent senator was said to have killed, while he was still a policeman, a notorious, wily, influential and well-to-do gang lord when the latter, according to the story, grabbed the cop's gun inside a closed van that was taking them to police headquarters. The gang lord was reportedly shot during the scuffle.

Policemen and police reporters invariably have unwritten stories about hardened criminals executed "while trying to escape" or "during shootouts." The equally hardened policemen have justifications for the executions ("salvaging" in later parlance): they're incorrigible criminals who can't be clamped behind bars long enough because they were well-connected and have smart and influential lawyers. The lesser ones were too hardened to be reformed and were best terminated for the good of society.

"*Pakakainin mo pa sa loob ng bilangguan 'yan,*" they say, "*sayang lang ang gastos.*" Or they get out of jail soon to continue menacing society. And taxpayers' money is only wasted going through the long judicial process to put them in jail. The solution: "terminate them" and get it over with.

The dilemma of the hardworking cop and the necessity of "terminating" the hardened criminals can be understood better after watching Clint Eastwood's "Dirty Harry" series or Charles Bronson's "Death Wish" series. In these movies, Dirty Harry and Bronson's vigilante terminated incorrigible criminals because the normal processes of the justice system could not put them permanently behind bars. That the public understands the problem and agrees with the solution can be gauged from the popularity of these series that made Eastwood and Bronson box-office bywords. And only a few days ago, the ultimate "terminator" of them all, Arnold Schwarzenegger, was elected governor of California, in part, no doubt, because of his fame as "The Terminator."

It is because of the record of the police, in the movies and in real life, that the public is ready to believe rumors of rubouts by policemen. The Al-Ghozi killing is one of them. Again, the PNP says it was a "shootout." But other people, based on circumstantial evidence, claim it was a "rubout."

One army official involved in the hunt for Al-Ghozi said, "There are indications that the incident was a classic military scenario. My reading is that Al-Ghozi had been under government custody even before the so-called shootout."

Another officer said Al-Ghozi was betrayed by his guards and sold to the police. Gov. Manuel Piñol of North Cotabato where the "shootout" was supposed to have taken place, said there was no shootout. Pigkawayan Mayor Herminio Roquero said "there was no encounter between the police or military against lawless elements" in his municipality.

People wonder why the Indonesian terrorist was taken to General Santos City, more than two hours away. Then why was there apparent haste in flying him to Indonesia without any autopsy being made on him. Then there is the very apt timing, only a few days before the arrival of President George W. Bush.

The PNP has, of course, denied all the accusations. "Look at the facts," pleaded PNP spokesman Director Ricardo de Leon. "The facts speak for themselves."

Al-Ghozi and an unidentified companion were flagged down in a multicab by elements of the police and the military on the Pigkawayan highway. Al-Ghozi chose to fight. A .45 caliber automatic with two bullets fired was recovered from him.

If it was a rubout, why would the police do that when it would be so much better to capture him alive? So that Al-Ghozi won't be able to identify the people whom he bribed to allow him to escape from the heavily-guarded PNP headquarters, say the doubters.

I think the Al-Ghozi killing will become one of those unanswered mysteries, like the alleged killing of Abu Sabaya whose body was never found because he conveniently fell into the sea when he was shot.

In his own words

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

REP. Abraham Mitra says George W. Bush should be careful what he says during his visit here. But if Mitra had followed Bush's career, he would have seen his advice comes a little too late. Jay Leno did say the other week Arnold Schwarzenegger was inspired to join politics by Bush who proved that you could become the president of the United States while using English as a second language. Below are some Bushisms to show us the quality of mind of the fellow Bayani Fernando is spending more than a million pesos per hour to spruce up Manila for-P10 million for eight hours.

Frankly, I don't know why America is spending billions of dollars in building weapons of mass destruction when they have Bush. I had a hard time choosing the real gems and putting them down in only a couple of columns. It's a sheer embarrassment of riches—or impoverishment. You thought nobody could top Erap? Listen, and die laughing:

"One of the great things about books is sometimes there are some fantastic pictures."—January 2000

"What I am against is quotas. I am against hard quotas, quotas they basically delineate based upon whatever. However they delineate, quotas, I think vulcanize society. So I don't know how that fits into what everybody else is saying, their relative positions, but that's my position."—George W. Bush, as quoted by Molly Ivins, the San Francisco Chronicle, Jan. 21, 2000

"This is Preservation Month. I appreciate preservation. It's what you do when you run for president. You gotta preserve."—Speaking during "Perseverance Month" at Fairgrounds Elementary School in Nashua, New Hampshire, Jan. 28, 2000

"I think we agree, the past is over."—On meeting with John McCain, Dallas Morning News, May 10, 2000

"It's clearly a budget. It's got a lot of numbers in it."—Reuters, May 5, 2000

"I will have a foreign-handed foreign policy."—George W. Bush, Redwood, Calif., Sept. 27, 2000

"They misunderestimated me."—George W. Bush, Bentonville, Ark., Nov. 6, 2000

"The legislature's job is to write law. It's the executive branch's job to interpret law."—Austin, Texas, Nov. 22, 2000

"Natural gas is hemispheric. I like to call it hemispheric in nature because it is a product that we can find in our neighborhoods."—Austin, Texas, Dec. 20, 2000

"I do remain confident in Linda. She'll make a fine labor secretary. From what I've read in the press accounts, she's perfectly qualified."—Austin, Texas, Jan. 8, 2001

"I want it to be said that the Bush administration was a results-oriented administration, because I believe the results of focusing our attention and energy on teaching children to read and having an education system that's responsive to the child and to the parents, as opposed to mired in a system that refuses to change, will make America what we want it to be—a literate country and a hopefuller country."—Washington, D.C., Jan. 11, 2001

"My pro-life position is I believe there's life. It's not necessarily based in religion. I think there's a life there, therefore the notion of life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness."—Quoted in the San Francisco Chronicle, Jan. 23, 2001

"It'll be hard to articulate."—Anticipating how he'll feel upon assuming the presidency, January 2001

"I am mindful not only of preserving executive powers for myself, but for my predecessors as well."—Washington, D.C., Jan. 29, 2001

"There's no such thing as legacies. At least, there is a legacy, but I'll never see it."—Speaking to Catholic leaders at the White House, Jan. 31, 2001

"You teach a child to read, and he or her will be able to pass a literacy test."—Feb. 21, 2001

"It's amazing I won. I was running against peace, prosperity and incumbency."—June 14, 2001, speaking to Swedish Prime Minister Goran Perrson, unaware that a live television camera was still rolling.

"It is white."—Reply to a child in Britain who asked what the White House was like, July 19, 2001

"I know what I believe. I will continue to articulate what I believe and what I believe—I believe what I believe is right."—Rome, July 22, 2001

"The folks who conducted to act on our country on September 11th made a big mistake. They misunderestimated the fact that we love a neighbor in need. They misunderestimated the compassion of our country. I think they misunderestimated the will and determination of the Commander-in-Chief, too."—Washington, D.C., Sept. 26, 2001

"My trip to Asia begins here in Japan for an important reason. It begins here because for a century and a half now, America and Japan have formed one of the great and enduring alliances of modern times. From that alliance has come an era of peace in the Pacific."—Tokyo, Feb. 18, 2002, apparently forgetting a thing called World War II.

"There's nothing more deep than recognizing Israel's right to exist. That's the most deep thought of all... I can't think of anything more deep than that right."—Washington, D.C., March 13, 2002

"I understand that the unrest in the Middle East creates unrest throughout the region."—Washington, D.C., March 13, 2002

"This foreign policy stuff is a little frustrating."—Quoted by the New York Daily News, April 23, 2002

"The public education system in America is one of the most important foundations of our democracy. After all, it is where children from all over America learn to be responsible citizens, and learn to have the skills necessary to take advantage of our fantastic opportunistic society."—May 1, 2002.

(Concluded tomorrow)

An opportunity to project RP internationally

Political Tidbits

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

SOMETHING about our people has sadly changed over the years. It seems that some of us have become so unbelievably petty as well as inhospitable. Readers will note that media attacks on the Bush visit are being couched in pesos and centavos, as though this is the only thing that matters. Some critics are tearing their hair over the preparations being made by the administration like cleaning and sprucing up the metropolis and the Palace, apart from what the House of Representatives is doing to look nice and clean for President Bush's address before a joint session of Congress. They are upset that all the preparations will reportedly cost P10 million.

* * *

This is such a narrow view of things. What the critics ignore is that the Department of Tourism under Richard Gordon is spending several millions of pesos annually to project the country abroad, whereas the Bush visit, which will be covered around the world, will be one giant opportunity for such projection. For instance, the barrio fiesta on the Palace grounds, where guests will have cocktails preparatory to the state banquet, will project our uniquely Pinoy way of celebrating. Gordon cannot hope to get a better projection of this in the international media than this Saturday's event, where the guests are being asked to come in Filipiniana. Besides, it's obvious that Bush won't take with him the orchids (borrowed from the Orchidarium at Rizal Park) and the *capiz* lamps from the century-old trees on the Palace grounds when he flies out. The plants now adorning the streets where his entourage will pass will become part of the landscape of a prettier Metro Manila.

* * *

The surprise is that one of the most vocal critics of the administration's preparations is Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos, who said the P10 million could have gone to programs for the poor. She should be the last person to complain about lavish spending, for she doubtless remembers how her mother ordered the hills of Olot, Leyte, bulldozed overnight to give way to a golf course for the IMF guests in 1976. Fearing that the grass would turn brown before the guests arrived, Imelda had the entire course sprayed with green paint! And of course, there's the Film Center which Imelda built on reclaimed land along Roxas Boulevard. Cement was simply poured over the bodies of workers who perished in an accident lest its completion be delayed. One could go on and on about extravaganzas of the Imeldific.

* * *

At the height of the controversy over Naia Terminal 3, this columnist was practically alone in saying that the administration would be well-advised to quietly settle its differences with the airport's builders, the Chengs, instead of making a federal case out of the anomalous features of the renegotiated contract. I argued that a quiet, non-adversarial settlement was good, for while the anomalous features were inserted during the Erap administration, the current dispensation was not without blame, too, since no less than its Neda secretary general had given the signal for Piatco to proceed. I felt sure that the Chengs, like other Filipino-Chinese businessmen, were amenable to a renegotiation. The ultimate objective should be to get that new airport operating in time for the "Visit the Philippines Year" this year.

* * *

Unfortunately, the administration went ahead and nullified the contract with Piatco, upon the recommendation of its "brilliant" adviser, former SGV chair Gloria Tan-Climaco. This decision was eventually backed by the Supreme Court as well as the Senate hearings. Now, over a year later, it turns out to be a sorry decision, for not only is Naia 3 deteriorating, which, given the sorry state of Naia I, is truly criminal, the administration also faces a big arbitration case filed with the World Bank by one of Naia 3's financiers, Fraport. Foreign investors are watching this case. In addition, the scandal allegedly involving GMA's close aides in a reported extortion attempt on Fraport will be another issue against her in the 2004 campaign.

GMA should have listened to several well-meaning business executives who warned her, when news about Climaco getting on board got around, that the latter had a reputation for leaving a trail of corporate mess (some years back, the board of SGV threatened its founder and chair emeritus, Washington Sycip, that they'd abandon him if he did not allow Climaco, then SGV chair, to be removed. Sycip listened and she was out); now Naia 3 is in a mess. GMA should also have listened to numerous complaints about the alleged unsavory activities of some lawyers of The Firm.

* * *

My friend Lilia de Lima, the efficient director general of the Philippine Export Zone Authority, is unveiling another dimension on Oct. 24, when she presents her first one-woman exhibit of paintings, under the tutelage of that art teacher with a heart, Fernando Sena. More about Lilia's new craze next week, but the interesting thing is that more "adults" are turning to painting for self-expression and even therapy, to cope with all the disturbing events in the world. In case some readers wish to take up this endeavor, my painter-nephew, John Tanedo Olivares, and his painter wife, Medge, are resuming their Saturday art workshop on Oct. 18 up to Dec. 6, from 3-5 p.m. at the Oz Café, UP Bahay Alumni, UP Diliman, Quezon City. The couple will handle two categories: basic drawing and painting for students 13 years and above, and oil painting techniques for students 13 and above, who have had basic drawing techniques. For further details, contact Olivares at telefax 931-3937, or Oz Café, 434-7456.

Living Magdalenes

At Large

Rina Jimenez-David

IN IRELAND in the 1960s, young women who got into "trouble" could be legally turned over by their families to homes run by Catholic nuns where they would be reformed by hard work and penance.

Among these homes for "wayward girls" were those run by the Magdalene Sisters, an order of women religious devoted precisely to the redemption of fallen women.

But the homes run by the Magdalene Sisters were in truth little more than sweatshops where their wards put in grueling days at the laundry in exchange for sparse meals, a regimented existence and the casual, sanctimonious cruelty of the nuns.

Perhaps the most disturbing thing about sitting through the movie "The Magdalene Sisters" is realizing at the end that it is a true story, that such establishments did indeed exist, and that families could and did cold-heartedly send their daughters into exile for acts of sexual transgression that brought dishonor to the family name.

It tells the story of three young women: Margaret, who is raped by a guest during a family wedding; Rose, who gets pregnant out of wedlock and whose son is turned over by her parents to the Church for adoption; and Elizabeth, an orphan who is turned over to the Magdalene Sisters when the nuns at the orphanage sense she is developing an interest in the opposite sex.

What were these women's crimes? What had they done to deserve exile, punishment and indentured labor? And when would their day of liberation come?

These are questions the women ask themselves, over and over. But the answer to the last is the most frightening. Ominous is the presence of many gray-haired aging residents, some of them confined to the home for over 40 years, aged by hard work, a bitter existence and defeat. It is a fate the three dread and struggle against.

* * *

I MUST warn you, the film is not a barrel of laughs.

One leaves the movie house weighed down by sorrow for the women whose lives were stolen not just by the nuns but also by a social order that decreed that women conform to a strict code of behavior at the risk of losing their freedom.

Disturbing is the fact that it was the women's families who imposed and maintained their sentences. When one of the residents manages to escape the home, she is brought back, battered and bruised, by her own father, who promises that the next time she runs away he would beat her so bad she would end up crippled. For her pains, she is summoned to the head sister's office where her head is shaven, with the nun reasoning that it is all for her own good, to hasten her renunciation of worldly cares by ridding her of one more cause for vanity.

Casual, careless and hypocritical acts of cruelty abound. Two nuns require the young women to strip naked and stand before them in a row, while they decide who has the biggest behinds and breasts, and who is "hairiest," snorting in offense when one resident thus honored starts crying.

One truly unfortunate resident has lost contact with her son, the result of an affair, who has been turned over to her sister. From time to time, her sister brings the boy to a gate where she could at least glimpse him, but, not allowed to talk to outsiders, she can only communicate with him through gestures and kissing her St. Christopher medal. Since he wears an identical medal, it acts "like a telephone" between them, she says.

This same woman is singled out by the visiting priest for clandestine sex. But when she stands up and denounces him, declaring, "You are not a man of God!" she is turned over to an asylum where she languishes and loses her fragile grip on sanity.

* * *

WITH SOME shock, one reads in the epitaph that the last of the Magdalene laundries was closed down only in the 1990s. I don't know if we still have "Homes for Unwed Mothers" in existence, but I do remember visiting one such home, which also took in runaways and so-called juvenile delinquents, during a class trip.

Philippine society at that time—and perhaps to this day—found it completely acceptable that young women be institutionalized under the care of nuns to avoid bringing "shame" to themselves and their families. Women who got pregnant without the benefit of marriage were—and still are—sent to such homes where they could wait out their pregnancies in privacy and away from the public eye. Their babies were either put up for adoption or brought back home with lame explanations, usually that the grandparents had "adopted" a new baby while their daughter had been away on vacation.

A friend, whose daughter had gotten pregnant at 15, tells of how the school authorities decided, upon her breaking the news to them, to call the girl from her classroom that minute and no longer let her attend classes, lest she begin to "show" and perhaps set a bad example to her classmates.

* * *

SOCIETY punishes women for deviance from strict sexual norms in various ways. In a book called "Women of the Asylum," case studies of women declared insane or unstable and confined to asylums for decades revealed that they were really confined at the behest of their families or husbands. One woman, who refused to marry a man her father had chosen, was turned over to a mental institution, her father reasoning that she had lost her "mental balance" in questioning his authority.

Implicit in the Magdalene Sisters' mission was that women needed to be saved from their sexuality, which if left unfettered would lead them inexorably to damnation.

I happened to catch "Sex and the City" after watching the "Magdalene Sisters," and it immediately lifted me from depression. Whatever we think of the four women, they certainly live far happier lives than the women under the care and watchful eyes of the sisters.

Small arms in wrong hands (1)

Human Face

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

READ this please. "The death toll from small arms dwarfs that of all other weapons systems—and in most years greatly exceeds the toll of the atomic bombs that devastated Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In terms of the carnage they cause, small arms, indeed, could well be described as 'weapons of mass destruction.' Yet there is still no global non-proliferation regime to limit their spread."

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said this in 2000. Did we ever think of small arms that way?

We always think of big bombs. We think of WMD (weapons of mass destruction) and we think of the paranoia of US President George Bush. We think of big explosions and biological and chemical substances that could silently kill millions. We imagine a fiery Armageddon.

Small, light arms we think of as only for cops-and-robbers movies, street-corner brawls, mobsters and spies who come in from the cold. James Bond made a case for this. It only happens in the movies and tabloid TV, until you come face to face with your mortality, like when a .45-caliber bullet went through my roof and landed in my bedroom one New Year's Eve, or when a bullet flew into the home of an INQUIRER editor and hit her computer keyboard.

A lengthy report "Shattered Lives: The Case for Tough International Control" was released worldwide a few days ago by Oxfam, Amnesty International and International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA). Its launching here was co-sponsored by the Philippine Action Network on Small Arms.

The report is frightening. Here is what it says.

The uncontrolled proliferation and misuse of small arms by both government forces and armed groups take a massive toll on human lives. On the average, more than 500,000 people are killed with conventional arms every year or one person per minute.

The arms trade is out of control, the report warns. From the gangs of Rio de Janeiro and Los Angeles, to the civil wars and armed rebellions in Liberia and Indonesia, it is conventional arms that are mainly used for killing. The global trade in arms that puts these weapons in the hands of killers spells big bucks. And it is unregulated.

Arms proliferation and abuse have reached a critical point, giving rise to human rights violations, poverty and conflict.

Here are some findings. The national arms export controls are riddled with loopholes. The easy availability of arms increases the incidence of armed violence, triggers conflicts and prolongs wars that break out. Civilians are increasingly victimized.

This kind of situation prevents aid from reaching those who desperately need it. Medicines, food and books are denied those who need them. The children suffer.

In the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001 attack on the United States, the so-called war on terror saw the increase in arms export from the United States and the United Kingdom to new-found allies such as Pakistan and Indonesia, and the Philippines as well.

There is already a thriving illegal market in small arms in the Philippines, the report points out. The infusion of military equipment from the United States (which includes small arms) could further contribute to the proliferation of these weapons. Through loss, theft or illegal sale, arms belonging to the Philippine government forces sometimes end up in the hands of criminal and armed political groups. In Mindanao, the report adds, more than 70 percent of the population own one or more guns. Machine guns can be bought for as little as $375 and revolvers for $15. As many as 82 percent of homicides involve small arms.

The report defines "small arms and light weapons" as those "designed for personal use; light weapons are designed for use by several people serving as a crew. Small arms include revolvers and self-loading pistols, rifles and carbines; submachine guns; grenade launchers, portable anti-aircraft missile systems; mortars of calibres less than 100mm; ammunition shells and missiles for all the above; grenades; landmines and explosives."

"Heavy weapons" covers all conventional military equipment not listed above, for example, armored vehicles, military helicopters, fighter aircraft, artillery guns, rocket launchers and mortars with calibers greater than 100mm.

The report describes small arms as light, easy to operate and lethal. Handguns are small enough to fit in a pocket and are widely available. In the United States they are sometimes called "Saturday Night Specials."

Assault rifles (also classified as small arms) are durable and simple to operate. They have few moving parts and require little training for the user. They are portable, can be easily concealed, and cheap, too. An AK-47 can spit out up to 30 rounds in less than three seconds, with each bullet potentially deadly at a distance of more than one kilometer.

So who owns the world's small arms? Be surprised to know that 59.2 percent (378 million) of the world's small arms are privately owned, while only 37.8 percent (241 million) are with government armed forces; 2.8 percent (18 million) are with the police, and 0.2 percent (1 million) is with rebels or opposition groups. The total number of small arms on this planet is 638.9 million.

I have fired a few shots from a .38 and a .45 at a police target range. I did make several near-bull's-eyes and I have kept the brown paper with the human silhouette on which I made my hits. I was never in love with guns.

Once I met a pack of pre-prepubescent boys (on Culion Island!) carrying toy guns that looked so real and so lethal. They walked with aplomb, they looked menacing. I asked them how they felt carrying those around. They laughed and posed for a photo.

* * *

Send comments to cerespd@info.com.ph

Corrupting each other

FILIPINO voters are quick to blame the government and politicians for almost all the maladies afflicting Philippine society. They are good at whining. They never fail to criticize the substandard public service, graft and corruption and the stupidity of their political leaders. Little do they realize, however, that they share the blame.

Young Blood

JX Chavez

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I have seen how elections work in this country and I am shocked by how flawed the electoral process is. The sight of politicians and voters corrupting each other is so sickening it makes me want to throw up.

In this country, one only needs to have the right image to win in elections. Winning public office is decided by popularity, not by issues. More worrisome is that political campaigns have been reduced to a battles of jingles, posters, T-shirts, caps, fans, etc.

During elections, a candidate must come up with his own shallow tricks and antics to endear him to the voting public. It pays to be a singer, a dancer, a TV or sports personality, an actor or an actress. An actress-spouse's endorsement, a TV commercial for a soap or lotion or hosting a TV talk show can boost one's chances of winning. In fact, one TV station has already become a good breeding ground for congressmen and senators. I am just wondering when the TV station will establish its own political party.

The rise of Joseph Estrada to the presidency was a classic example of how a popular image can sway voting sentiments. Estrada's charisma among the masses dwarfs even Imelda Marcos' crooning prowess which endeared her to the Filipino voters during Ferdinand Marcos' heydays. Erap's Asiong Salonga image and Madam Imelda's ear-piercing rendition of "Dahil Sa Iyo" are among the many recurring images in the circus known as Philippine elections.

The Filipino voters' fascination with images has virtually transformed political campaigns into song-and-dance extravaganzas. The *miting de avance* has become "Tanghalan Ng Bagong Kampiyon." A politician's song here and quick dance steps there can easily translate into votes. Politicians make clowns of themselves to the delight of the voters. But then, many of these politicians don't have anything sensible to say anyway.

Politicians and political parties also hire entertainers to perform at political rallies. People come not to hear party platforms (most of which are lies anyway) but to enjoy the entertainment.

Even incumbent officials, prodded by their theatrical managers cum public relations agents, come up with some media blitz (courtesy of the taxpayers' money) to project an image that will draw support and sympathy from their constituents. The "Ina ng Bayan" TV ad series of Ate Glo (or Ate Guy if you want) comes to mind. Perhaps, Ate Glo is planning a remake of "Himala."

If there is any consolation one can derive from these cheap political gimmicks, it is this: at least for once, the voters can make fools of the politicians who forget their promises soon after the elections.

However, it is sad to see how dumb voters' clamor for images and illusions and how the equally dumb politicians' acquiescence demean the whole electoral exercise. Ninoy Aquino, Claro M. Recto, Lorenzo Tañada and Jose W. Diokno must be turning in their graves.

As if such shallow entertainment were not enough, politicians and voters shamelessly display their parasitic relationship in more ways than one. Patronage politics permeates every political campaigning. From Malacañang down to the barangay halls, big-time and small-time politicians dangle projects, cash and other goodies to win grass-roots political support during elections. (By the way, our geopolitical subdivisions are too many, courtesy of our power-hungry politicians.)

Sangguniang Kabataan elections are not an exception. Thanks to the politicians and the "idealistic" youth during the Marcos years, dirty politics is easily passed on to the young.

More appalling is the sight of opportunistic voters queuing up in the candidate's headquarters or homes to ask for medicines (they have prescription receipts) and other doles. Strange how many people seem to get sick during elections. And believe it or not, some voters' demands can be surprising, ranging from slippers (preferably Islander, not Spartan!) to houses and lots. Seeing an opportunity to exploit the voters' ignorance, poverty and opportunism, politicians give away medicines, liquor, clothes, etc. The goodies can come in the form of free funerals and sponsorships in baptisms and weddings. Well, at least, the politicians know how to share their loot with their constituents.

Not content with dispensing favors, politicians make sure that their names are displayed on bridges, streets, and other infrastructure for name recall and visibility. It's as if the money used for the construction were theirs. If I had my way, I'd replace them with signs that read: "Warning: Politician 100 Meters Away!"

The effort to win votes culminates on the eve of the elections. This is when vote-buying on a massive scale takes place. Who says that "midnight madness" happens only during bargain sales in department stores? Politicians and voters also go on a buying spree during elections as if the right of suffrage were a commodity. More often than not, electing a public official in many places has become a kind of auction, with votes going to the highest bidder.

It is not surprising why politicians in this country are brazenly corrupt. The voters themselves are corrupting the politicians. After spending so much in the elections (it doesn't matter if the money they spend is theirs or not), the politicians certainly want to get back their investment—plus profits. After all, they have to save again for the next elections.

Without any doubt, the voters are to blame for the dimwits and scoundrels they help install in power. They have corrupted each other very well.

JX Chavez, 28, works in a financing company based in Makati. He has voted only once, during the 1992 national elections, and has vowed never to vote again.

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Sacrificing the Filipino on the altar of power

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's photo, which took up half of the INQUIRER's Oct. 5 front page, precisely captured the moment in which the President put an end to her lie that she would not run in the 2004 elections. Captured in a stance reminiscent of late dictators, GMA only racked up new questionable statements in her speech at Clark Field, Pampanga.

Once again, GMA employed the term "sacrifice" for her purpose. In December 2002, she said it was her "personal sacrifice" not to join the presidential race; last Oct. 4, she said she saw "the need for greater sacrifice" and so she will, after all, run in the 2004 elections.

It is worthy to note that it is not the President who has to sacrifice because of graft and corruption scandals her administration is involved in (including the P533-million overpriced Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard and the multimillion payoffs in the Piatco deal), robbing the national budget meant for the Filipino masses. While she professes to rid the government of corruption, her own husband is now caught in a laundering scandal.

Meanwhile, government spending continues to allocate, for every P3 it gives to debt servicing, a mere P1.6 for education, 50 centavos for agrarian reform, 40 centavos for social security and employment, and 2 centavos for health. This is based on databank Ibon Foundation figures.

GMA claimed that the first six months after her Dec. 30 declaration were marked by a 4.8 percent growth, but what she boasted of did not trickle down to the basic sectors of Philippine society. Millions more of Filipinos are poor as opposed to the latest data released by the National Statistical Coordination Board which was justly condemned by the Kilusang Mayo Uno last Oct. 3.

With US President George W. Bush visiting the country on Oct. 18, these dire conditions will undoubtedly continue as both leaders are expected to further the US liberalization agenda and intensify US military intervention in the guise of counterterrorism in the country. The Southern Tagalog region, which has already accumulated more than 1,019 cases of human rights violations under the Macapagal regime and is barraged with 38 combat battalions of the AFP and PNP, is sure to be one of the hardest hit with these actions.

Southern Tagalog will not let Bush's visit pass without airing our discontent. Thousands from the provinces of the region will join the six-day "*lakbayan*" headed by our coalition on Oct. 13-18 to mark our opposition to Bush's dictates and his continued support to GMA's corrupt regime.

—JOSEPH GARCIA, spokesperson,
Southern Tagalog Opposed
to the presence of Bush Coalition,
156 Barangay Sala, Cabuyao, Laguna

That senior moment

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

IT'S a quaint term used to describe that moment when you're eloquently explaining a point to an audience of about a thousand people and then suddenly, you can't remember what you wanted to say next. It happens to all of us, even when we're in our 20s and 30s, but in midlife, we can now excuse ourselves by saying, "I'm sorry but I'm having a senior moment." Sometimes we're able to move on, and sometimes, the senior moment turns into eternity, and we panic.

The terms we use to refer to forgetfulness can be quite cruel. In Filipino, "*ulyanin*" has negative connotations, almost equivalent to saying "old fool." In Minnan (Hokkien), spoken by local ethnic Chinese, people will use the term "*lao gong*"—*lao* meaning "old" and *gong* meaning "stupid."

It hasn't helped as mass media pick up on the findings around Alzheimer's disease, which seem to create even more anxiety for older people. Pinoy-style, we've turned the disease into a verb. Instead of saying "I have a senior moment," we go, "*Ay, parang nag-a-*Alzheimer's *ako* (I think I'm getting Alzheimer's)."

Actually, my choice of today's topic was sparked by a health feature I heard last week on radio, which attempted to explain forgetfulness, dementia and Alzheimer's disease—all in three minutes. The result was a rather confusing and alarming discussion. (There was a mildly amusing ending though, when a radio commentator butted in and asked if perhaps the President was suffering from one of those disorders, what with all her flip-flops.)

We need to distinguish the various problems we have with memory. All of us get memory lapses even in our youth, as changes in our brain bring about a decline in our cognitive functions. It's not just the memory that's affected but our ability to learn new tasks, as well as our thinking and judgment processes.

If you want to be fancy about those senior moments, you can explain you're suffering from "benign senescent forgetfulness" or "age-associated memory impairment." As the terms imply, these are not serious problems.

Forgetfulness becomes serious when we can't recall entire events, and when our daily activities are affected. The medical people refer to this more serious disorder as dementia, a term I hope will be changed eventually because it has such negative connotations.

People tend to think dementia is a sign of Alzheimer's. This is only partly correct. Dementia can result from other problems, including a stroke and Parkinson's disease. An older person's dementia may also be caused by depression. Treat the depression and the dementia will be resolved, although note that if certain tranquillizers are used, these pills can themselves be a cause of dementia.

Dementia and Alzheimer's are not inevitable problems that come with old age. The chances of getting these conditions depend on a combination of genes, lifestyles and environment. The latest edition of Merck's Medical Manual says that dementia affects about 6 to 8 percent of people aged 65 or older. Among those who are 85 or older, the prevalence increases to about 30 percent. Merck states categorically, "dementia is never a normal part of aging," noting that even among centenarians, "more than 50 percent" will not have dementia.

Those figures are for the United States. I recently talked with Prof. Grace Cruz of the UP Population Institute, who is coordinating a survey of older people, and she assures me they've included some tests in the survey to look at how our senior citizens are functioning, physically and mentally.

While we're waiting for those figures though, we should draw consolation from the fact that all around us, in our families and communities, there are senior citizens who function very well, sometimes even with serious memory problems.

It's important to be reassuring when older people have their senior moments, whether from simple forgetfulness or from more serious dementia. Give them time as they fumble in their bags for their keys. It never helps to nag, "Look at you. Your memory is so bad."

But it does help, I feel, to find the correct "moment" to sit with them and point out that we're all getting older and that as our memory begins to fail, we need to take measures to avoid potential problems. With older women, for example, this might mean something as simple as sticking to one large wallet to keep credit cards, cash and keys.

Go through the house with the elderly and help to clear the clutter. Older people can get really worked up when they can't find something they need. This is especially the case with glasses, because they can't get on with the day's activities. Quite often, it turns out the glasses were on the bed, but "disappeared" because it blended into the dark-colored bedcover. Solution? Change the bedcovers to ones with light colors.

There are two keys to creating a "cognitive-friendly" environment. First is familiarity—memory problems are often amplified simply because the older person is in a new environment, whether because they're on vacation in a new place, or because the furniture at home has been rearranged.

The second key is safety. Again, walk through the house with older relatives to figure out where to post reminders, for example, a sheet of paper next to a phone with the most important numbers in large bold letters, or a sign next to a stove: "Turn off the gas after using." Since older people often have several medicines to take, it's always useful getting them a pill case with seven separate divisions, each to carry all the medicines to be taken in one day.

Are there "drugs" to reduce memory impairment? The jury's still out with gingko biloba; many studies say it helps, but there are also some researchers who say gingko's a placebo.

But even while the debates continue over gingko, we should note that many studies do show that keeping mentally active can delay or slow down dementia. That can be reading and writing, as well as simply interacting with friends and relatives. Love, care and companionship can make the senior moments a minor annoyance in the golden years.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

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MISMANAGEMENT RAP

Senator seeks probe of GSIS

By Jhunnex Napallacan, *PDI Visayas Bureau*

CEBU CITY—Sen. Manuel Villar, chair of the Senate committee on finance, said Winston Garcia, president and General Manager of the Government Service Insurance System, should explain the allegations that he mismanaged the state-run pension fund.

Villar said an investigation should be conducted to trace out the root cause of why GSIS failed to serve its members.

He said he wondered why Garcia claimed that the pension fund was financially okay when many members complained that loans and other benefits were not being released.

The statements of Garcia, he added, were inconsistent with what the members were experiencing.

But Villar is not inclined to initiate a Senate investigation of the matter. He said any inquiry should be conducted by the Senate committee on government enterprises chaired by Sen. John Osmeña.

Thousands of government workers in the country rallied in front of their local GSIS offices last week to protest against the delay in the processing of their loans and to demand for the resignation of Garcia whom they accused of mismanaging the pension fund.

Garcia, however, maintained that the delay was due to the computerization program that he initiated to be able to determine which government agency had been remiss of its GSIS contribution.

He denied allegations that the GSIS was in financial straits, claiming that the pension fund still had P16 billion in bank deposit.

Garcia also said the GSIS was also collecting the outstanding receivables from the different government agencies.

He said the Departments of Budget and Management and the Finance owed GSIS P22 billion and P3 billion respectively.

Garcia pointed out that these departments had accused him of mismanaging the pension fund after he tried to collect their unremitted GSIS contributions.

But Villar said government debts could still be collected.

"*Hindi naman mawawala ang utang ng gobyerno* but the problem of GSIS may be bigger than the backlog of the payment of the government," he said.

Villar said Garcia should ensure that GSIS could provide the benefits due its members.

The GSIS on Monday started receiving applications for emergency loan amounting to P10,000.

Cebu provincial treasurer Roy Salubre said Capitol employees panicked following false reports that the GSIS would only entertain emergency loan applications on Monday.

Many employees rushed to his office and asked how they could secure the application forms, he added.

He said all he did from morning until the afternoon was sign the application forms of the employees.

Pollution worry leads to lowering of gold haul

MATI, Davao Oriental—Environment Secretary Elizea Gozun said she ordered miners on Mt. Diwata to slow down their mining activities while a new tailings dam was still being constructed in the area.

Gozun said from 700 metric tons per day, she told miners to scale down their ore production to only 100 tons a day.

"This is to prevent the pollution of the Naboc River and farmlands in the area while the Mabatas tailings dam was still being constructed," Gozun told reporters here.

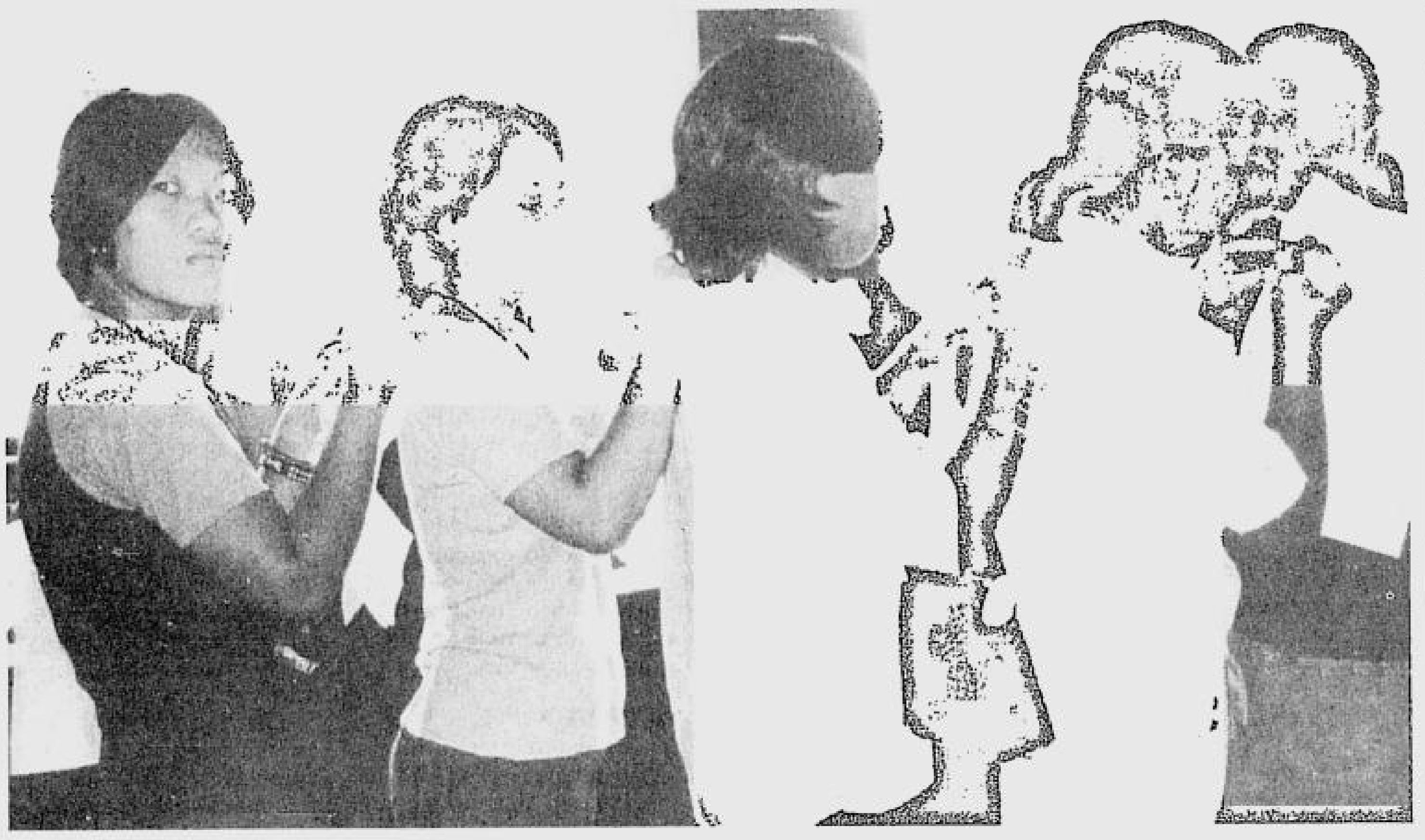
She said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources wants the mercury level in the river, which supplies water to farmlands in Monkayo, Compostela Valley and nearby areas, to be further reduced.

The river's mercury level had significantly dropped after the government's takeover of the gold-rich area, also known as Diwalwal.

During the days of unregulated mining in Diwalwal, mine wastes, which contain high levels of mercury and other poisonous compounds including cyanide, found their way to the tributary.

Later, a research conducted by government and private health experts confirmed that residents near the mining site were also suffering from mercury and cyanide poisoning.

Meanwhile, a task force formed by Davao Oriental Gov. Maria Elena Palma Gil said it found that majority of the residents of Barangay Macambol here were against the entry of at least eight multinational mining companies aiming to explore the area for possible mineral deposits. *Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



HOPE
Youngsters line up to register as new voters in Davao City, using each others' backs to fill up Comelec forms and displaying interest in the election process.

RING GONZALES-PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Olongapo cop exec slain near court

IBA, Zambales—A police official in Olongapo City was shot and killed by armed men as he was leaving the regional trial court's offices here on Monday afternoon.

Senior Insp. Sergio Rivera Jr., 59, operations officer of the Olongapo City police, was leaving the Iba Justice Hall at about 4:15 p.m. when one of the three gunmen blocked his way and shot him using a .45 cal. pistol.

Doctors at the Ramon Magsaysay Provincial Hospital here said Rivera died of four bullet wounds in the head and body.

A witness told police that the suspects fled aboard a red motorcycle. The witness described the suspects to be in their early 20s.

Investigators are still uncertain of the motive for the killing.

Rivera becomes the latest in a string of killings of policemen, most of which are unsolved and most the work of rebel assassins.

Communist guerrillas had stepped up attacks on government targets following the declaration of the New People's Army as a terrorist group. *Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Vizcaya gov't seeks closure of asphalt plant

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—The provincial government has recommended the closure of an asphalt batching plant in Barangay Magsaysay here after residents blamed its operations for causing diseases especially among children.

Lawyer Basilio Rupisan Jr., provincial legal officer, said the asphalt plant has become a nuisance due to the smoke, dust, noise and odor it emits.

"It is recommended that the asphalt plant in question be ordered and close in order to safeguard the health and safety of the residents living near its premises," Rupisan said in a letter to Gov. Rodolfo Agbayani.

Earlier, Agbayani ordered the investigation of the reported cases of headache, dizziness and vomiting among children and other residents in Magsaysay, where the plant has been operating since May.

Medical examinations conducted by the provincial health office here showed that 83 residents suffered from common colds while 12 others complained of headaches.

"It is safe to conclude that there is a causal relation of the common colds and headaches to the pollution caused by the plant," Rupisan said.

The plant was constructed under build-operate-transfer scheme (BOT) and planned to be a joint venture between the Bondlink Corp. and the provincial government.

Bondlink, however, failed to operate under the original plan. For several years, the plant was closed until May this year.

Bondlink Corp. operated the plant to supply asphalt to a firm rehabilitating the national highway here.

In a statement to the provincial government, Albert Villaflor, plant engineer, said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources had cleared the plant when it issued an environmental compliance certificate.

Villaflor also claimed that the plant's emission was lower than the standards set by environmental monitoring agencies. He said the plant was declared "safe, pollution was tolerable, negligible and not a nuisance" to residents.

Bondlink claimed that a former employee, who was dismissed from the company due to poor performance, was provoking the residents into complaining against the firm. *Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

1,200 displaced by flash floods in General Santos

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—A total of 253 families with 1,218 dependents were displaced when flash floods triggered by a heavy downpour hit two flood-prone villages here on Saturday afternoon.

Mary Anne Competente, senior technical officer of the Field Operations Division of the City Social Welfare and Development office (CSWD), said the victims were temporarily housed in separate evacuation centers in Barangays Labangal and Calumpang.

Mayor Pedro Acharon Jr. visited the evacuation centers on Saturday evening to assess the situation of the flood victims.

Representatives from the National Disaster Coordinating Council also arrived in the evacuation centers on Sunday to distribute rice.

Each family was given a pack of rice weighing about five kilograms.

The city social welfare office had already extended relief assistance like rice, sardines, noodles, salt and sugar to the evacuees.

The CSWD placed the damage at about P4.4 million.

Affected residents claimed that last Saturday's flash floods were the worst ever to hit them. Their houses were washed away by the rampaging flash floods when it struck around 4:30 p.m.

Some residents were happy to see their houses standing after the flash floods, but were dismayed upon seeing their personal belongings and appliances deeply buried in sludge.

Competente said the victims were just lucky the flash floods took place in the afternoon, not during wee hours.

"There could have been casualties if the flash floods took place when the residents were in deep slumber," she said.

The city government is set to distribute more relief goods and used clothing to help the victims.

The city social welfare office had been warning residents to evacuate to safer grounds as the areas they were occupying were identified as natural waterways.

The warning, however, fell on deaf ears. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Countdown for Justice

WAPILE

IT is exactly 521 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapila, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

Attack on radio station tied to mayor's wrath

BUTUAN CITY—Two armed men on Sunday morning stormed the broadcast center of Radyo Natin in Bislig City in Surigao del Sur and destroyed its office equipment and transmitters.

The attack occurred more than a week after supporters of Mayor Florencio Garay staged a rally to demand the closure of the radio station which was critical of the local chief executive.

Mario Alvizo, station manager of Radyo Natin, said the unidentified men, armed with .38 cal. pistols, barged into their station at around 9 a.m. and poured muriatic acid on its equipment and transmitter.

Damaged

He estimated the damaged to cost at least P841,000.

Alvizo said the suspects were able to disrupt their operations but not their resolve to fight corruption and wrongdoing in government.

"I think it was related to our feud with Mayor Garay, I can't see no other reason," he told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

But Alvizo admitted that he has no evidence that would link Garay to the attack.

The mayor, who for months has been subjected to commentaries and reports over his alleged corrupt practices and mismanagement of the city, has attempted to shut down the radio station, accusing the radio station of violating the city's rules on permits, according to Alvizo.

Accusations

Alvizo said the mayor's accusations against the radio station were just a smokescreen for his attempts to shut the radio station up to stop the criticisms against him.

Efforts to reach Garay for comments failed.

Celso Licup, president of the Caraga PNP Press Corps, condemned the attack on the radio station as an assault to freedom of the press and urged police to hunt the attackers and bring the culprits to court.

The attack was the latest in a series of assaults on media outlets and men. *Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Killed in clash

POLANGUI, Albay—A Citizen's Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu) member was killed and three were seriously wounded in a gunfight in Barangay Danao on Wednesday. Authorities identified the slain Cafgu member as Ramil Garcia. The wounded victims are Eduardo Balitay, a Cafgu man of Barangay Suha, S/Sgt. Noel Peras and Sgt. Jesus Buela, both based at the 201st Infantry Brigade in Barangay Tula-Tula, Ligao City. The soldiers were patrolling the area when they encountered some 20 armed men. ***Michael Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Lotto robbery

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—A lotto outlet in Balibago Complex, Sta. Rosa, Laguna lost P100,000 in cash when two unidentified men held up one of its employees on Wednesday. Laguna police director Senior Supt. Edwin Corvera said Jonathan Amaba, a resident of Barangay San Vicente, Biñan town and employee of the lotto branch, had just alighted from his service vehicle a few meters from the outlet when two armed men approached him and asked where the money was. Corvera said Amaba quickly gave the bag containing the money after the suspects threatened to kill him. The victim told the police that he was about to deliver the money to the lotto outlet owner, lawyer Juliet Gonzales of Barangay Tagapo, Sta. Rosa. The suspects, who also took the victim's T610 Ericson cell phone, boarded a motorcycle and sped toward the town proper. ***Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

6 fishers held

AGDANGAN, Quezon—Police and members of the Fishery Law Enforcement Team arrested at least six suspected illegal fishers, on Wednesday as they engaged in alleged unlawful fishing in the municipal seas off Tayabas Bay. A police report said the fishermen were found aboard a vessel using fishing gear that violate the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998. The sea patrol also seized two motorized boats allegedly owned by one Virginia Mesa, based in Barangay Dalahican in Lucena City, fishing nets with accessories and undetermined volume of assorted fish. Commercial fishing is banned in Tayabas Bay. ***Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

6 pupils hurt

GUMACA, Quezon—At least six pupils of Gumaca East Elementary School were hurt when a wayward 10-wheel dump truck plowed into their school in Barangay Villa Nava on Tuesday. Police said that driver Rodrigo Villanueva Jr. parked his truck along the side of the road near the school while he transacted business with the nearby Land Transportation Office. The truck accidentally rolled off the road and plowed into the school room of the victims. The students suffered injuries in different parts of the bodies and were immediately rushed to the Gumaca District Hospital. ***Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Bicol trade fair

LEGAZPI CITY—Products from Bicol, like handcrafted items and ethnic food, will be showcased at SM Megamall during the 7th Orgullo Kan Bikol Fair on Oct. 16-19. This year's showcase focuses on home furnishing, giftware and holiday decor, wearables, fresh and processed foods, organic and natural products and furniture. Bicolana actress Boots Anson-Roa and successful Bicolana businesswoman in America Loida Nicolas-Lewis will be the guests of honor. ***Joyce Mejillano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

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INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

'The fight goes on!'

Rosales vows to advance environmental cause

By Mei Magsino
Lipa City

IN HIS first media conference since he was formally assigned to his new post, Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales admitted that he would be leaving his Archdiocese of Lipa with so many unfinished business in the fight for environmental preservation and upliftment of the poor.

ARCHBISHOP Rosales declares his stand on various matters during a press conference in Lipa City.
ERIK ARAZAS

Rosales takes the place of Jaime Cardinal Sin as Archbishop of Manila on Nov. 21.

"The fight against the people and companies responsible for the destruction of mangrove forests in Calatagan, the pollution of Balayan Bay and Taal Lake, the salination of water in Batangas City, and the Batangueños' problem of electromagnetic field are really unfinished business," he told journalists on Tuesday at the archbishop's residence in Lipa City.

"But this I tell you, *tuloy ang laban* (the fight goes on)," the 71-year-old prelate stressed.

Rosales has already assigned two priests to take care of that (fight), he said. He has also met with the Lusong Para sa Kalikasan ng Batangan, the coalition of all environmentalist groups in the province and assured its members of support.

Rosales also said the Pondong Batangan, a community foundation that helps the poor to help themselves, would continue. "When I go to Manila, if the people there want to copy Pondong Batangan, and have Pondong Manileño, that would be better. That is actually my dream," he added.

Batangueño

When he transfers to Manila, Rosales said he would first get to know the priests there. "I must know their aspirations, their needs, and their feelings because the priests are the special collaborators of the bishops," he said. "Then we will give hope to the poor people of Manila."

He said he would be a Batangueño-Manileño and would bring with him the good qualities of Batangueños.

"On Nov. 21, when we meet again in Manila, and the occasion will be met with so much pomp and revelry which I'm not used to, I'll ask for simplicity, but I know my first request will be rejected," Rosales said. "Please pray for me that I will be faithful to my task."

Rosales will be the first Batangueño to be the archbishop of Manila, the oldest and biggest archdiocese in the country. That position makes him the most likely candidate for cardinal.

Lipa has produced two cardinals. The Archbishop of Cebu, Ricardo Cardinal J. Vidal, used to head the Archdiocese of Lipa. But Vidal is a native of Marinduque.

Another cardinal who once ran the Archdiocese of Lipa was Rufino Cardinal Santos. The now retired Military Vicariate Ramon Arguelles also came from the archdiocese.

Fr. Jonas Palmares, Rosales' assistant in the Lipa Chancery, attributed Lipa's being dubbed as a breeding ground of cardinals primarily to the city's active laity.

Apolitical

Rosales admitted that it wasn't easy for him to accept the task given by Pope John Paul II to take over Sin's post. "Nobody knew the agonizing experience I underwent in the refusal-acceptance process of becoming a shepherd once more for another and much larger archdiocese."

When the INQUIRER asked him in a Sept. 11 press conference in Batangas City to comment on the news that he would be the next archbishop of Manila, Rosales just smiled and said the news was not true. The Pope's pronouncement came on Sept. 15.

Unlike Sin, who was a young but little-known auxiliary bishop in Panay when he was nominated as archbishop of Manila, succeeding the conservative Cardinal Santos, Rosales has declared his non-political stance.

"I will never endorse any particular candidate. I will endorse qualities, not people," Rosales said. "And the people will know the right choice in the end."

He said he would endorse a candidate who is God-fearing, with a track record of serving within the habit of morality, who helps the poor, and has a vision and direction.

Calling the government to put a stop to corruption, Rosales challenged the people to make a change for the better, saying they have been free for 65 years now.

"Can't we take responsibility for the 65 years of freedom that we have had?" Rosales asked in Filipino. "After the Japanese occupation, politics run by Filipinos has been the most divisive factor in the country."

He admitted though that he had not voted since 1986. "The last time I voted was during the snap election in 1986, when I was still in Mindanao," he said, "I will not engage in partisan politics. I will just give guidance."

Environmentalist

A staunch protector of the environment, Rosales explained the painting of him done by the late Nonoy Marcelo where he was holding an Armalite with his right hand and a cross with his raised left hand.

"If you notice, I was also stepping on the remnant of a tree that has been cut by the illegal loggers. That painting was done when I was in Malaybalay fighting illegal loggers," he said.

He explained that when he was appointed Coadjutor Bishop of the Diocese of Malaybalay in 1992, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources declared a total logging ban in Bukidnon, the first time it imposed on a province as a result of efforts of the local church.

In their fight to save the forests, one of his priests, Fr. Nery Satur, was murdered by armed men who were in cahoots with illegal loggers.

When he was appointed archbishop of Lipa in 1992, Rosales, together with environmentalist groups in the province, began the fight to protect and preserve the environment.

Three years ago, he formed the Lipa Archdiocese on Environment Concerns Office, which dealt with the protection of Taal Lake and fought to stop the salination of water in Batangas City, electromagnetic field radiation, and the destruction of mangrove forests and coral reefs in the Balayan Bay.

In January, he gathered all environmentalist groups in Batangas to form the Lusong Para sa Kalikasan ng Batangan coalition.

Altar boy

Born in Batangas City to the distinguished family of Godofredo Rosales and Remedios Borbon, Rosales has been known in the province as "Lolo Arch" (Grandfather Arch), short for archbishop.

In Lipa, even kids wanted to come to him and ask for his blessing. Sometimes, he would pinch playful kids on the nose and cheeks.

But not many people knew that he once served as an altar boy at 8 years old, when he was a student in St. Bridget's Academy in Batangas City.

When he was in Grade 3 in 1940, Rosales wrote an essay in English on what he wanted to be when he grew up. He said he wanted to become a priest and serve God by being faithful to Him. This was inspired by his experience as an altar boy who served the children's Mass at 7 a.m. with his elder brother Billy.

"How I love to ring the Sanctus Bell and it makes me feel so happy at the approach of our dear Lord in the little Host!" Rosales said in his essay.

Sixty-three years later, Rosales has reached not just his priestly dream but also the highest position of the Catholic Church in the Philippines.

Sorsogon town commemorates first Mass in Luzon

By Reynaldo T. Jamoralin
Contributor

MAGALLANES, Sorsogon, particularly Sitio Gibalon in Barangay Siuton, is the hub of activities these days.

An artist's perspective of the Gibalon Historical Shrine to be constructed on the place has been completed, and architectural plans are being rushed for the project.

The provincial government, that has approved the project, had already acquired the site for the shrine, which is just in front of a tiny chapel and nondescript concrete historical marker built by the parish of Magallanes in 1975 in Sitio Gibalon.

The shrine was proposed to mark the site of the first Mass in Luzon island.

From 1994, which was the centennial of the founding of Sorsogon when it was separated from Albay and which also marked the revival of the Kasanggayahan Festival, Bicolanos and tourists have gone on pilgrimage to Gibalon every October to commemorate the first Mass in Luzon.

The venue is a makeshift bamboo and nipa raised platform constructed upon the slopes of a hill in front of the chapel.

But, with the construction of the shrine, pilgrims, visitors, cultural workers and researchers can visit this heritage site year-round.

First Mass

Records say that the Spanish Conquistador Miguel Lopez de Legazpi, who was then based in Panay Island, dispatched sometime in 1565 to this part of the islands an expeditionary group headed by Capitan Luis Enriquez de Guzman together with their chaplain, Augustinian friar Fray Alonso Jimenez.

IMPROVISED chapel where the first Mass in Gibalon, Magallanes, Sorsogon was held.
REYNALDO JAMORALIN

The group was to gather provisions for the hungry Spanish force in Panay, and, at the same time, evangelize the villagers they might come upon during their foray.

The group came upon a small, but thriving fishing village at the mouth of the Hibal-ong River, now the Ginangra River, in what is now the municipality of Magallanes.

This was Hibal-ong, or Gibalong, the very first Christian settlement in the island of Luzon.

It was here where the first Mass in Luzon Island was said to have been celebrated by Fray Jimenez.

In his accounts translated from the original Spanish by Fr. Francisco Mallari, S.J., Mariano Goyena del Prado said: "The chronicles say that in 1569, in this part of Ibalon, Capitan Luis Enriques de Guzman went ashore for the first time on Bikol soil, in the continent of Luzon, and the gospel was announced, also for the first time, by the missionary Father Alonso Jimenez."

In his article, "Sorsogon: Birthplace of Christian Civilization in Southern Bicolandia," late poet and historian Rev. Fr. Isidoro D. Dino, who was a life member of the Philippine Historical Association, wrote: "At the barrio of Hibal-ong, Capt. de Guzman and Fray Jimenez put up a temporary chapel at the banks of the Ginangra River and held the first Mass on the island of Luzon. This, indeed, is of historical importance, marking the beginning of Christianization in southern Bicol. The Bicol peninsula had become a part of the Kingdom of Christ before Manila became Christianized."

Early towns

The book "Bikols of the Philippines," by Maria Lilia F. Realubit published in 1983, said: "Sorsogon's early towns were Gibalon in 1569 (now a barrio of Magallanes), Casiguran in 1600, Bacon in 1617, Sorsogon in 1628. The missionaries were in the forefront of town building, implanting the cross. Fray Jimenez was the first to sow Christianity in Bicol soil."

In his reply to a request by the Sorsogon Arts Council and the Sorsogon Provincial Tourism Council in 1997 for the National Historical Institute (NHI) to officially certify that, indeed, Gibalon was the site of the first Mass in Luzon, and there, put up a historical marker, Samuel K. Tan, Ph.D., who was then the NHI chair and executive director, said: "After conducting initial research, data seem to imply that, indeed, Sorsogon was the site of the first mass in Luzon. But where particularly, remains unclear and, thus, needs further research."

But the Catholic Church of Sorsogon is of the firm belief that that particular site is none other than Gibalon.

In fact, this year, the Magallanes parish is also celebrating the 25th anniversary of the setting up of the small chapel and historical marker on the site.

The patron saint enshrined at the chapel is San Diego de Alcala, a Franciscan saint, whose image was presumably brought to the place in 1583 when the Franciscan fathers took over from the pioneering Augustinians.

Name changes

Some historical researchers assert that there could not have been a place called Ibalon, nor could it have been the "ancient" name of the Bicol Region, as believed by many, because the name only came into use when the Spanish colonizers went to this part of the country and appropriated the name of the small fishing village of Hibal-ong or Gibalon, which was reputedly the site of the first Mass in Luzon Island.

At first, the Spaniards used it for the fishing village itself, as shown in many old Spanish maps, which sometimes even used the original spelling, Hibalong or Gibalon.

In fact, the village was not only the first Christian settlement in Luzon but was also the center of governance, trade and commerce.

However, because of constant depredations by marauding pirates, the Spanish government transferred the seat of government to what is now known as the Old Albay District in Legazpi City.

Thus, the place came to be known as the Tierra de Gibalong or Ibalon to designate the territories of Sorsogon and Albay, while on the other side, it was the Tierra de Camarines, composed of Camarines Sur and Camarines Norte. But the name was also used interchangeably to designate the whole Bicol Region, and sometimes even the whole of Luzon.

Clearly, then, the name Ibalon came from the fishing village of Hibal-ong or Gibalon in Magallanes town, and the name only came into use when the Spaniards came and landed in 1569 on this village known as Hibal-ong at the mouth of the Ginangra River.

Early maps of Sorsogon, likewise, show that Gibalon is located on the western coast of the province.

Kasanggayahan Festival

This October, Sorsogon will again celebrate the Kasanggayahan Festival and for the 10th year, people will troop to the sleepy little village of Gibalon for the traditional commemorative Mass.

The pilgrimage has been scheduled on Oct. 19, and the main celebrant of the commemorative Mass is Bishop Bastes, the new Diocesan bishop of Sorsogon.

As usual, the Mass will be celebrated on a huge bamboo and nipa affair constructed upon the slopes of the hill fronting the chapel of San Diego de Alcala down below, just across the road that slices through the barangay, a bumpy, helter-skelter ride, but picturesque seaside circumferential road, winding up at Bulan town up ahead.

With the prospect of a more permanent structure on the site, complete with all the amenities, landscaped and scenic surroundings, a chapel, a small museum and library, and picnic grounds and park, the next Gibalon pilgrimages are expected to be more pleasant, the Sorsogon provincial government and the Kasanggayahan Foundation Inc. assure.

Reynaldo Jamoralin is the president of the Sorsogon Arts Council and works with the public information office of the Sorsogon provincial government.

FOUR DIGIT
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(In exact order)

SUERTRES
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MEGALOTTO 6/45
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METRO

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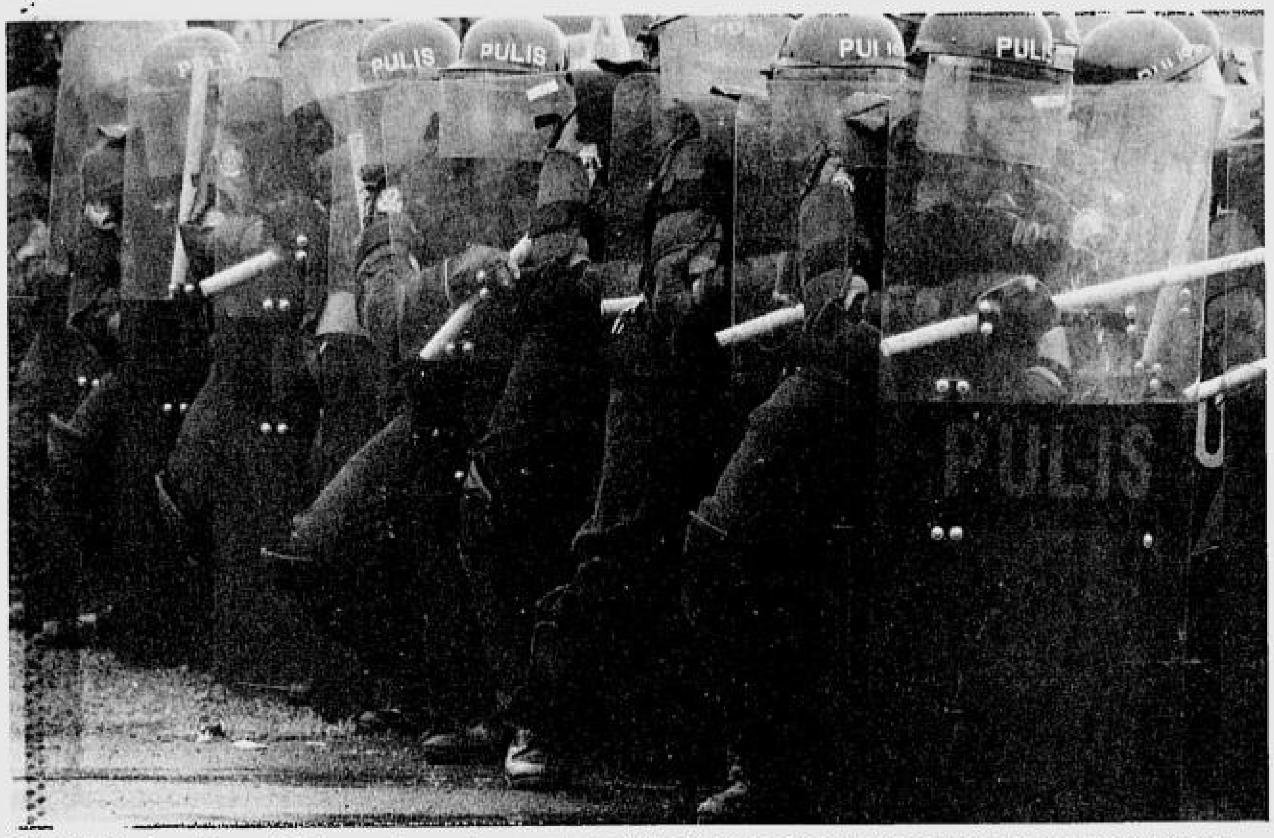
Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**



MEMBERS of a police antiriot squad execute maneuvers during exercises held in Camp Karingal in Quezon City on Wednesday as part of security preparations for the visit of US President George W. Bush on Saturday. JOAN BONDOC

Police watch covers diners, hotel guests

By Leila B. Salaverria

HOTEL guests and customers of fine dining restaurants are among the groups of people police are watching amid threats of terrorist attacks in connection with the visit of US President George W. Bush in Manila.

Western Police District director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong on Tuesday met with 35 heads of security of hotels and big restaurants in Manila after police received "raw information" that some groups planning to create trouble might check in at hotels and launch their attacks from there or from restaurants, said WPD spokesperson Chief Insp. Gerry Agunod.

The information has yet to be verified, but police "don't want to take chances," Agunod said.

Bulaong provided the security chiefs tips on how to spot suspicious-looking customers and what to do if they are spotted.

Agunod said guests who have aroused the security men's attention must be kept under watch. If the guests' movements become more ominous, the security chiefs should inform the police.

Agunod also said that security in hotels should be tightened because of the increase in the number of hotel guests brought about by Bush's visit.

The US president is expected to arrive on Saturday with a large contingent of security men, staff members and media personnel.

Bush will be laying a wreath at the Rizal Park, and Agunod said the WPD is going to "sanitize" the park for the ceremony.

Strollers, joggers and vendors will be cleared from the area.

"The park is an open area," Agunod said. "A suicide bomber can blow himself up there if he wants to, which is why we will clear it of people (when Bush arrives)."

Prepared for the worst

Metro Manila policemen are also bracing themselves against militant groups who have threatened to stage mass actions during the Bush visit. But police do not know where and when, and which groups, will strike.

Making the cops' job tougher is the absence of a schedule of Bush's activities since neither Malacañang nor the US Embassy has issued any definite schedule for the US president.

Northern Police District Director Marcelino Franco said on Tuesday that they were just "preparing for the worst case scenario."

National Capital Region Police Office Director Reynaldo Velasco met with the heads of the five police districts in the metropolis on Tuesday to review the security measures they have so far put in place for Bush's visit.

Franco, whose NPD will secure the US Embassy and surrounding areas, said he had talked to the heads of the US Embassy Security Force, taking up with them the threats by some groups to hold demonstrations in front of the embassy.

But police officials have earlier said the no permit, no rally policy would be enforced during the visit. *With reports from Edson Tandoc Jr. and Luige del Puerto*

Family of 4, maid massacred in QC

By Tina Santos

A FAMILY of four and their housemaid were massacred inside their separate adjacent apartment units in Quezon City Tuesday night.

The victims were identified as Alfredo, 42, a carpenter; Sixto, 75; Fulgencia, 71; and Teresa, 43, all surnamed Subido; and their housemaid identified only as Selsa.

The victims had slit throats and multiple stab wounds in different parts of their bodies, cursory examinations made by the members of the Scene of the Crime Operations (SOCO) team showed.

Officer-on-case P02 Joseph Dino of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit said they received a report around 7 p.m. from a certain Norman Mansuela that a man's dead body was discovered on Benitez Street, Barangay West Triangle.

Police immediately responded to the scene and discovered that the dead man was Alfredo. He was found bloodied and sprawled on the floor in the living room of his house.

Three hours later, as they were conducting a follow-up operation, policemen tried to seek the assistance of Alfredo's relatives who lived next door. But they were surprised to find the dead bodies of Sixto, Fulgencia, Teresa and Selsa instead.

Neighbors of the victims said that prior to the incident, they heard a confrontation coming from the Subido family's house.

However, police have yet to establish the heated argument angle. They added that they are not also ruling out the angle of dispute over ancestral land in Pangasinan.

Police also said that they have already invited some relatives of the victims to shed light on the incident.

Meycauayan water supply threatened due to P66-M debt

MAYNILAD Water Services Inc. yesterday threatened to cut off its water supply to more than 10,000 households in Meycauyan, Bulacan, because of the area's unsettled debt amounting to P66.5 million.

The threat came after the Meycauayan Water District (MWD) refused to acknowledge the notice sent to them twice by Ireneo Gonzales, manager of Maynilad's Northwest Business area, which covers Meycauayan.

Jess Matubis, Maynilad's assistant vice president for corporate affairs, said no one wanted to accept the notice of disconnection they had sent twice to the office of MWD general manager, engineer Mariano Sangalang Jr., on Tuesday and yesterday morning.

Matubis said the disconnection will take effect seven days after the MWD receives the notice without settling their obligations.

"We will have to send the notice by other means in order to enforce our right to collect what they owe us. If they would still refuse, we will be forced to carry out the disconnection," Matubis said.

He said thousands of families will be greatly affected if they cut off the water supply.

"They will then have to get water from vendors and other sources," Matubis said, adding that Maynilad provides MWD with 9 million liters of treated water daily.

Matubis explained that the debt stemmed from the MWD's refusal to honor the new adjustment rate carried out by Maynilad since January 2002. He added that MWD insisted on paying the old rates.

He said the arrears reached P66.524 million by September this year.

Matubis did not give figures but said the debt represents the balance between the new and old rates.

The two water firms signed a memorandum of agreement for the daily supply treated water to some 10,455 households in Meycauayan on June 8, 2001. *Tina Santos*

DUE TO BUSH VISIT

New traffic scheme deferred

BUSH first, single dispatch system later.

The Metro Manila Development Authority has postponed its implementation of the Organized Bus Route System to give way to its preparations for US President George W. Bush's visit on Oct. 18.

The MMDA was supposed to start the full implementation of the scheme yesterday, covering public and private vehicles.

But Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios said they would implement the scheme after the Bush visit.

Vergel de Dios said that the status of the Organized Bus Route (OBR) System would remain the same. He added they are still in the process of improving the system. *Christine Paita*

Search on for best bus, jeep drivers

By Margaux Ortiz

JEEPNEY and bus drivers now have a reason to be well behaved on the road.

Caltex Philippines Inc. yesterday launched its search for the 10 outstanding public transport drivers in Metro Manila.

Caltex officials said the winners of the search will get P100,000 each and an accident insurance.

Caltex country chairman Timothy Leville said the company wants to recognize the contributions of deserving drivers to the country's economic growth.

"The search will create for the drivers an image as respectable and dignified members of society," Leville stressed.

Department of Energy Secretary Vincent Perez, who was present at the launch held at the oil firm's newly opened station in Pasay City, said that Metro Manila's transport associations should nominate five of their best drivers.

Ping Lacson's threat to the Supreme Court

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

IN HIS privilege speech last Monday, the third instalment of the "Jose Pidal" exposé, Sen. Panfilo Lacson not only blasted the Supreme Court for ruling against him in the Kuratong Baleleng multiple murder case, he also threatened the country's last bulwark of justice.

He said: "As the Supreme Court is incapable of providing me with justice for the valid causes I have espoused in repelling recycled charges, time-barred by law, I have no other recourse but to fight this administration of greed, corruption and prostitution of democratic institutions.

"I am now tempted even to fight this kind of 'judicial politics' on my own terms and outside the rotten justice system. I hope and pray that this temptation will not get the better of me" (underscoring supplied).

* * *

That was vintage Panfilo "Ping" Lacson who, before the Supreme Court ruling, always got what he wanted.

From the martial law days up to the time when he was the chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP), Ping was a spoiled brat.

If he didn't have his way, he would kill or scare the wits of people who crossed him.

* * *

When he was still in the service, Lacson got the post of PNP chief even when then Deputy Director General Reynaldo Wycoco was favored among several candidates.

Wycoco was promised the top PNP post because he was a recommendee of Iglesia ni Cristo, a very influential religious group.

Besides, Wycoco, who graduated from the Philippine Military Academy in 1968, was senior to Lacson of PMA Class of 1971.

* * *

A bird in Camp Crame told me Lacson talked President Erap into appointing him to the top PNP post.

How did he do it? He apparently threatened Erap.

In his conversation with Erap's pal, Charlie "Atong" Ang, before his appointment, Lacson said that if he didn't get the coveted post he would arrest the President and handcuff him. Lacson knows Erap's dark secrets because they were partners in crime at the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission (PACC). Erap headed the PACC when he was Vice President.

* * *

Lacson had such contempt for President Erap he showed it in public.

When Ping Lacson launched the Police Foundation, which aimed to collect P1 billion in private donations for the PNP, he invited his President to grace the occasion at the Manila Hotel.

But Erap got mad at not being informed beforehand about the foundation, and so did not attend the event.

When Ping Lacson was informed that Erap was not coming, he kicked and overturned the chair reserved for the President on stage. The PNP chief's tantrum was witnessed by the guests.

* * *

Digressing, why was President Erap mortally afraid of Lacson, his subordinate?

Lacson knew about the involvement of Jude Estrada, Erap's son by Loi Ejercito, in drug trafficking when they were both working at the PACC. Erap was PACC chair while Lacson was chief of the agency's Task Force Habagat.

Remember the time Jude beat up a woman named Española for not remitting the proceeds of drug money to him? Erap "exiled" Jude to the United States in the aftermath of the scandal, and the public soon forgot about it. Jude came back when Erap became President. He even became an Air Force captain.

* * *

A week before that Supreme Court ruling came out, Associate Justice Romeo Callejo, who penned the decision, received a funeral wreath from an anonymous giver.

It was apparently meant to scare the s**t out of Callejo, but the tactic didn't work.

Knowing Lacson now, who do you think sent that funeral wreath?

* * *

Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos has criticized the barrio-style reception that awaits visiting US President George W. Bush and his party that will cost the government half a million pesos.

Ms Marcos said that the party for Bush and company is too extravagant.

C'mon Imee! Your Mom was much, much more extravagant in her days. Criminally extravagant, she wasted hundreds of millions of pesos on fanciful projects.

What is that saying about people living in a glass house?

* * *

Whether international terrorist Fathur Rohman Al-Ghozi was killed in a shootout or killed in cold-blood by his police and military captors, so what?

The guy's dead and can no longer harm innocent people.

Remember, Al-Ghozi was a confessed maker of bombs that killed many people riding on an LRT train and buses on Dec. 30, 2000.

Why waste saliva on a stinking, rotten, dead pig?

METROBRIEFS

Actress faces raps

MARIZ Ricketts

ACTRESS Mariz Ricketts, wife of action star Ronnie Ricketts, is facing perjury charges before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office for allegedly accusing a businessman and his wife of duping her of P2.8 million worth of investment. In a counter charge against Mariz (Marissa Ricketts in real life), who earlier filed charges of estafa and violation of the Bouncing Check Law against them, Francisco Santana, 27, of Capitol Hills Subdivision, Quezon City, branded the actress as lying under oath. Santana denied he and his wife, Maria Pilar, had issued a bounced check to Ricketts, saying it was the other respondents—Josefina Santana-Ong and Luisa Gonzales-Villanueva, who did. Santana added that they never encouraged Ricketts to invest in a foreign exchange business allegedly managed by Ong and Villanueva since he and his wife are not connected with that kind of trade. *Tina Santos*

Death for daughter's rape

A PASIG City regional trial court meted the death penalty yesterday to Roberto Aguilar for raping his 14-year-old daughter inside their home in Taguig five months ago. Aguilar had pleaded guilty to the crime, but the court showed no leniency in handing down the sentence. In her decision, Judge Lorifel Pahimna of Branch 69 also ordered Aguilar to pay the victim, now 15, P125,000 in damages. Pahimna said Aguilar deserved the death penalty because of the "minority of the victim." The crime was aggravated by the fact that the victim and Aguilar have blood relations, the judge said. *Luige del Puerto*

Parreño memorial services

MEMORIAL services for Domingo P. Parreño will be held tomorrow, Oct. 17, at 7 p.m. at the Grace Bible Church, 3041 Nagtahan St., San Miguel Manila. Mr. Parreño passed away at Roswell, New Mexico, on Sept. 26 at the age of 79. He is survived by his wife, Lume, children and their spouses, Ariele and Marlyn, Cheryl, Bethel and Bobby, Disraeli and Ruth, Earl and Reca and Nathan. His remains were cremated last Oct. 6 in Roswell.

Sulit; 65

PAULINA Z. Sulit of Batangas died on Oct. 12. She was 65. Her body lies in state in Lobo, Batangas. Interment will be on Saturday, Oct. 18, at 2 p.m. at the Holy Angel Cemetery.

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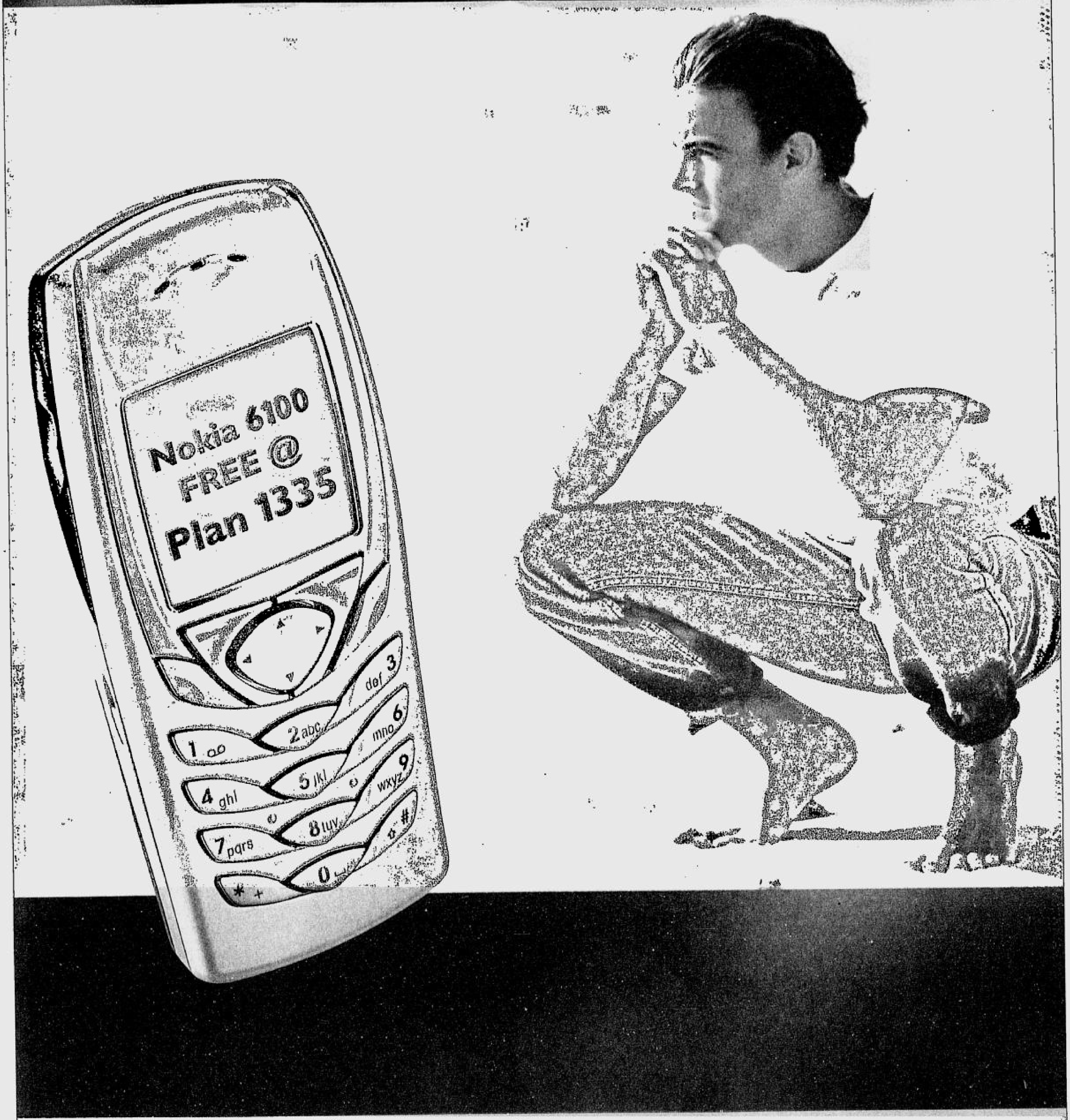

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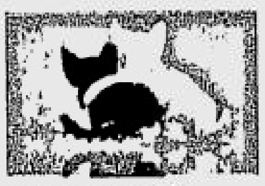
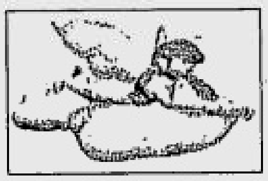


If tomorrow starts without me,
And I'm not there to see,
If the sun should rise and find your eyes
All filled with tears for me;
I wish so much you wouldn't cry

When Mr. Clark heard the news, he hugged his son and thanked him for saving the family. He thanked God for saving their lives and turning what he had felt was a tragedy into a blessing.



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With a feeling of sweet love
It's a hug sent from Heaven
From someone special up above

SMS Messages

Friends will come and go,
The seasons change
and it will show,
I will age so will you,
But our friendship stays,
strong and true.
- Anonymous

The time I've lost in wooing,
In watching and pursuing
The light that lies
In women's eyes
Has been my heart's undoing.
- Thomas Moore

Friendship is like the breeze.
You can't hold it, smell it, taste it,
Or know when it's coming,
But you can always feel it,
And you'll always know it's there,
It may come and go,
But you can know it'll always be back.
- Terri Fanning

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Ellis stars as Kings spoil Banal return

By June Navarro

ROSELL Ellis wasn't spectacular as advertised but his mere presence was enough to fire up Barangay Ginebra to a 95-90 victory over Talk N Text last night in the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference at the Philsports Arena.

Ellis, who replaced Ricky Price, provided the inspiration and leadership the Gin Kings direly missed in their last five games since Eric Menk injured his left calf muscle.

``When Eric got sidelined, we had to fill a huge hole in the middle. Ellis more than filled that hole," said Ginebra coach Allan Caidic, whose Gin Kings registered their fifth win in as many games.

By ending a three-game losing skein, the Gin Kings moved one and a half games ahead of Shell (3-6) in their duel for the last quarterfinal slot in Group B.

The Phone Pals, who drew a sub-par performance from Asi Taulava, lost for the first time under returning coach Joel Banal and fell to 6-4 in the same division.

It was actually the third straight loss for the Phone Pals, who made do without Banal after winning the All-Filipino as Joel rejoined Ateneo in its unsuccessful bid to keep the UAAP crown.

Taulava failed to live up to expectations, scoring only seven points and grabbing 13 rebounds in 43 minutes of action.

An unforgiven defense thrown by the Gin Kings against the league's leading scorer also stymied Taulava.

Ellis, who played impressively for Coca-Cola coach Chot Reyes, debuted with 25 points and 15 rebounds for the Gins .

Scores:

GINEBRA 95 —Ellis 25, Caguioa 20, David 15, Limpot 13, Adducul 6, Ballesteros 6, Crisano 5, Salvacion 3, Calpito 2, Johnson 0.

TALK 'N TEXT 90 — Cantrell 26, Carey 16, Alapag 16, Pablo 10, Ravena 9, Taulava 7, Belano 5, Fran 1, Telan 0.

Quarters: 19-21, 37-43, 68-all, 95-90.

GAMES TOMORROW (Cuneta Astrodome)
5 p.m.—San Miguel vs Red Bull
7:30 p.m.—Purefoods vs Alaska

DFA cancels Lim passport

THE DEPARTMENT of Foreign Affairs has cancelled the Philippine passport of Basketball Association of the Philippines secretary general Graham Lim.

According to Director Bernardita Catalla of the Office of Consular Af-

DFA/ A21

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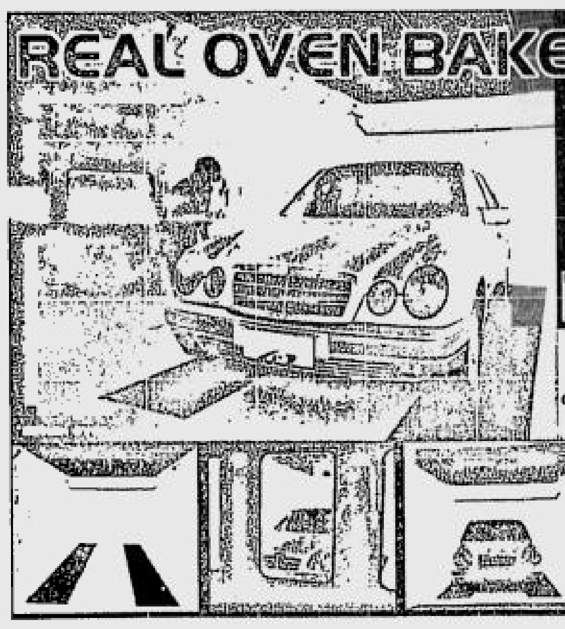

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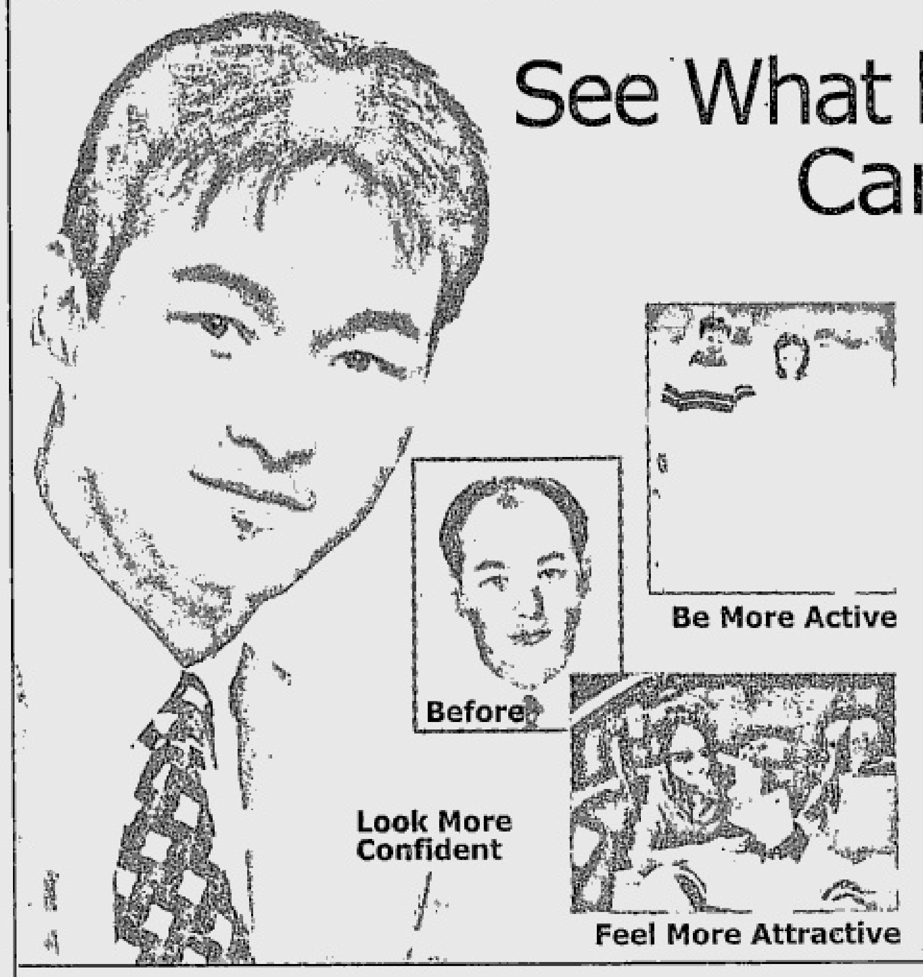

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PBA DRUG PROBE
Nothing personal–GAB

By June Navarro

IT CAME with the territory.

Games and Amusements Board chief Eduardo Villanueva yesterday said the GAB simply did its job when it conducted an independent investigation on the eight players who failed the PBA's drug tests several months ago.

"The GAB's investigation was in answer to the clamor of the players, who said they did not have their day in court," Villanueva told the INQUIRER.

"We're not attacking anybody here. Our objective was to know the truth behind the drug-testing controversy. Nothing really personal," he added.

Villanueva was reacting to the statement of PBA Commissioner Noli Eala criticizing the GAB for issuing a resolution that Jun Limpot did not fail the PBA drug test when the Barangay Ginebra forward had long been reinstated.

At the same time, Eala pointed out the other day that the agency has no jurisdiction over the PBA's anti-drug policy and the penalties slapped on the players who flunked the drug tests.

"The GAB can conduct an investigation, intervene, override and even reverse certain policies if it's not done in a fair manner as prescribed by the law," said Villanueva in explaining the scope of the GAB's supervisory and regulatory powers over the PBA.

"When you supervise, what do you do? The PBA knows that its policies should be made known to the GAB," he added.

Villanueva also said the reinstatement of seven players who failed the mandatory and random drug tests came way ahead of the GAB's resolution because the agency took time studying their cases.

"We don't want a half-baked decision that's why it took some time before we could finish the investigation. We wanted to finish it early but several postponements due to lack of necessary documents and statements delayed the hearings," said Villanueva.

The GAB had conducted a total of 13 hearings, including those which were postponed, from July to August.

SEAG body okays 447 bets to Vietnam

By Marc Anthony Reyes

NO MORE than 447 athletes.

This was the final roster the SEA Games technical commission approved yesterday following the inclusion of the 35-man athletics team that is expected to lead the country's gold medal chase in the Vietnam SEAG this December.

Technical commission chair Steve Hontiveros said no last-minute addition will be made and some athletes may even be removed either due to injuries or failure to submit credentials as five athletics bets, who were required to do so tomorrow.

Athletics president Go Teng Kok had predicted 9-14 golds in Vietnam. The team also produced 9 golds in the 2002 SEAG in Malaysia.

The number of officials, however, remains uncertain although it was estimated to be less than 200.

There will be 28 team managers and a still undetermined number of coaches and administrative, medical and secretariat staffers who will join the RP contingent in the Dec. 5-12 sportsfest.

Rowing's Nestor Ilagan, who is also a member of the technical commission, said the main bulk of athletes will be leaving on Dec. 2 via a chartered flight to Hanoi, which is co-hosting the SEAG along with the city of Ho Chi Minh.

The last batch, according to Ilagan, will be coming back on the 14th also via a chartered flight.

Pagunsan brods win

By Jong Arcano

BROTHERS Rey and Juanito Pagunsan each buried long birdie putts on the last two holes yesterday for a one-over-par 73 that powered them to a two-stroke victory in the Fontana Casino Two-Man Team Challenge at the Villamor Golf Club course.

Rey first sank the go-ahead birdie from 12 feet on the 17th then set up Juanito for an eight-footer on the final hole with a superb 7-iron approach that won them the P40,000 champion's prize.

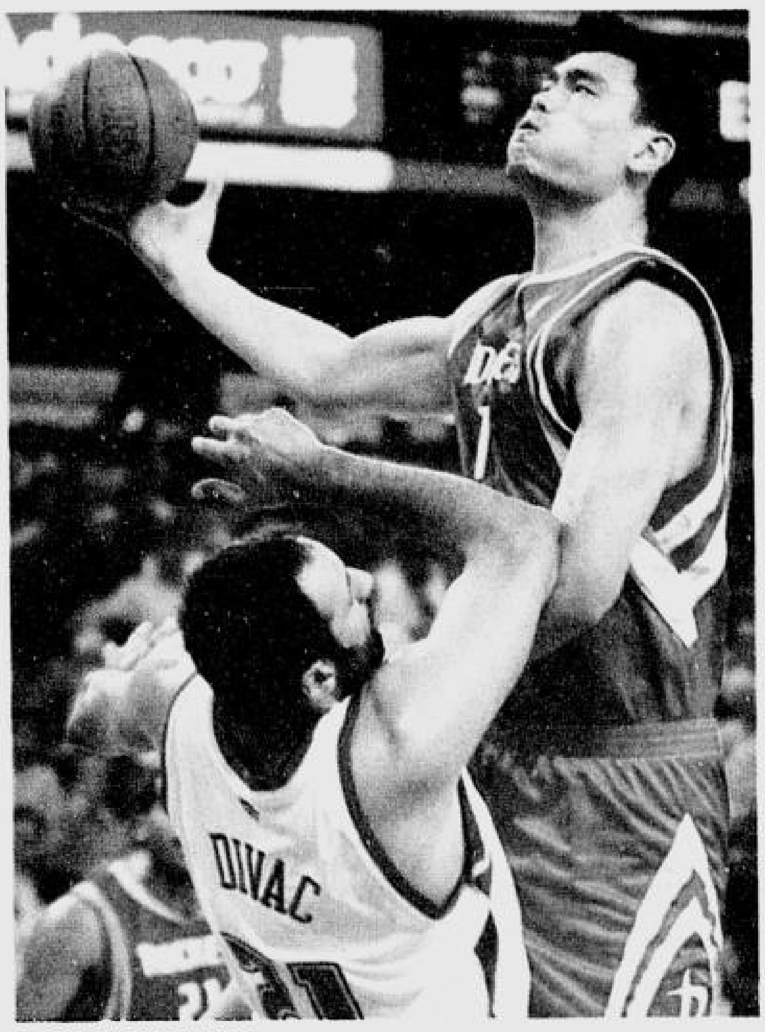
The Pagunsans wound up at three-under 141 counting their 68 on Tuesday, surviving the late charge of Cassius Casas-Roel Banares who birdied the 17th for a 74 and 143. Casas and his partner won P32,000 of the P250,000 total pot.

Vic Santia and Rudy Enema, the first round leaders, were still leading by two through 13 holes only to crash out of the title picture when they took a quadruple-bogey 8 on the 14th.

Santia-Enema limped home with a 78, sharing third at 144 with Edgar Ababa-Ebarra Quiachon and Orlan Sumcad-Richard Abaring in the tourney organized by the Professional Golfers Association of the Philippines.

Ed Olaybar, who teamed up with Jess Toribio for a share of eighth place, hit an ace on the signature 12th hole.

Meanwhile, the PGAP elections will be held Oct. 25 at the Power Golf driving range. The current PGAP board is made up of Jun Bustamante as president, Emil Afable (vice president), Boy Dizon (secretary), Vic Granada (treasurer) and directors Eddie Bagtas, Rey Alit, Felix Fernando, Gene Villaruz and Boy Santuile.



BARRELING YAO
Houston Rockets' Yao Ming (right) charges into Sacramento Kings' Vlade Divac as he drives to the basket during their preseason game in Sacramento, California, Tuesday. The Rockets won, 82-78. AP

Letran nips Adamson

GAMES TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
2 p.m.—FEU vs Mapua
4 p.m.—DLSU vs SSC-R

NCAA finals MVP Ronjay Enrile saved the day for Letran with a triple that gave the Knights a 74-73 win over the Adamson Falcons in the 2003 UAAP-NCAA Showdown for Bantay Bata 163 opener yesterday at the Blue Eagle Gym in Quezon City.

Adamson was ahead, 73-71, when the Falcons lost the ball to the sideline and allowed Boyet Bautista to set up Enrile for the game-winning trey.

It was a bitter defeat for the Falcons, who led by as many as 14 points, 51-57, with 4:15 to go in the third quarter.

Letran barged into the semifinals on Friday versus the winner of today's La Salle-San Sebastian tussle.

University of the East dumped Jose Rizal University, 84-56, in the second game.

SPORTSWATCH

Legend Tee golf slated in Subic

THE THIRD Legend Tee golf tournament gets under way on Nov. 8 at the Subic Bay Golf & Country Club in the Subic Bay Freeport. Presented by Legend International Resorts Ltd., owners and operators of the five-star Legenda Hotel, Grand Seasons Hotel and Legenda Suites in Subic Bay, the tournament aims to raise funds for the countless children and families victimized and traumatized by the armed conflict in Southern Mindanao. Mr. Khoo Boo Boon, chief executive officer of LIRL, said the firm will work hand-in-hand with Tabang Mindanaw, a non-profit organization supported by charitable business corporations, church and civic entities, in establishing more "sanctuaries of peace" to help the children victims learn to cope with war-trauma and meet their other needs. For registration and more information about the tourney, please call the event secretariat at 732-9888 or (047) 252-1888 or Argee Gomez, PR officer, at 0917-341-3960.

Prosecutors hit Kobe lawyers

EAGLE, Colorado—Prosecutors accused Kobe Bryant's attorneys of deliberately smearing the reputation of his accuser Tuesday as they asked a judge to make sure any evidence about her sexual history is heard behind closed doors. In a sharply worded court filing, prosecutors said defense attorney Pamela Mackey stepped over the line last week when she asked a detective at the preliminary hearing whether injuries to the 19-year-old woman were "consistent with a person who had sex with three different men in three days." That question prompted Judge Frederick Gannett to end the hearing, which was to resume Wednesday. The hearing will determine whether the NBA superstar will stand trial on a sexual assault charge. *AP*

Pastor sets sight on Macau GP

ENZO Pastor, the 2002 Asian Formula Renault Champion, wants to join the 50th Macau Grand Prix next month but lack of funds may prevent him from doing so. The 21-year old Pastor received an invitation from Peter Thompson and Team Meritus. According to Enzo's father and team manager, Tom Pastor, the news came as a pleasant surprise. "Unfortunately, we cannot give Mr. Thompson a positive reply as our resources have been used up by Enzo's current Asian Formula 3 Campaign and Don's (Pastor) participation in Formula BMW Asia. This is why I'd like to ask the government and private sector to support the Philippine Formula Autosport Foundation and give Enzo a chance to compete in Macau again," he said. Interested sponsors can contact PFAF Secretariat at 845-1302, telefax 893-3676 or log on to www.f1dream.com.ph or email colbyventures@skyinet.net

Marquez snares masters title

UPSET marred the finals of the 7th SLETBA Open Championships after Mark Marquez romped off with the title in the centerpiece open masters division at the close of the weeklong tournament Sunday night at the Sta. Lucia East Grandmall. Representing SLETBA-Panasonic, Marquez toppled 23 other finalists including runner up and RP team stalwart Paulo Valdez to take home the top purse of P60,000 at stake in the tournament supported by Red Bull Barako, Panasonic Mobile phones, Freyssinet, Fortune Tobacco, New Solanie Hotel and On The Grill Restaurant. Marquez averaged 226 pins in 16 games for a 3617 series, besting Valdez of TBAM-Prima by 106 pins (3511) and third placer Norman Gonzales of TCBA-Euromed by 109 (3508).

5-stag derby today in C. de Oro

THE NEWLY organized Northern Mindanao Gamefowl Breeders Association (NMGBA) will hold its Inaugural 5-Stag Derby today and tomorrow at the Guami Cockpit in Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City. At stake is a guaranteed prize of P500,000. NMGBA president Emoy Gorgonia, host of television show "Tukaan," welcomed members and guest participants in a rousing fellowship last night attended by more than 100 NMGBA members. The NMGBA is affiliated with the National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders, the umbrella organization of major breeders association in the country.

Las Piñas special stagfest Saturday

A TOTAL of 25 entries have been listed in the special 4-stag derby at 6 p.m. on Saturday (Oct. 18), at the New Las Piñas Cockpit. With a P50,000 pot and an entry fee of P11,000, this derby will be hosted by the Ucap-LGBA screening committee headed by Rey Oliveros and supported by Mayor Nene Aguilar and Gerry Ramos. Submission of entries is tomorrow, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. at LPC. For details, contact 873-1040. The New Las Piñas Cockpit will also present the JBB Blue Blade 5-Stag Derby of Ucap stalwart Sonny Ligon on Nov. 8.

Cebu cockers gird for 'Bakbakan'

MEMBERS of Cebu's two breeders' associations vowed to fight as one when the the Bakbakan 2003 National 8-Stag Derby kicks off on Oct. 27 with its regional eliminations. The champion breeders will be known in the finals on Nov. 26 at the Araneta Coliseum. Cockers from the Cebu Gamefowl Breeders Association and the Cebu Gamefowl Breeders and Cockers Association are already conditioning their gamebirds, changing their stag feeding from maintenance and preconditioner Enertone Ready-Mixed Concentrate to Thunderbird Platinum Hi-Protein Conditioning Pellets.

TOURING LEADER
Grand Prix leader Rey Reyes of Auto Klae/Sports House/Tropical Ice holds his trophies after stamping his class with two first-place finishes in rounds 11 and 12 of the Class C division of the Philippine National Touring Car Championship of the Casino Filipino Grand Prix at the Batangas Racing Circuit recently.

SHOOTING CHAMP
Filipino shooter Eric Ang (center) celebrates with Gov. Luis "Chavit" Ang and his father, Elpidio Ang, after winning the gold medal in the recent Presidential Clay Shooting Championships in Vigan City. Ang, holder of the RP record of 119 and a member of the national team to the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games, beat Australia's Steven Trembath and fellow RP shooter Jimmy Recio by gunning down 138 birds, including 21 in the finals.

Gallant gesture

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I AM touched by the offer of Rich Alvarez and Wesley Gonzales of Ateneo to join the Philippine Team for the basketball campaign in the Vietnam SEA Games in December. When everybody else seems content with just waiting to be tapped and thus contribute to the problem, here comes now the couple volunteering to be part of the solution.

There couldn't be a more gallant gesture than that.

I read the story awhile back in Tempo, the tabloid I had helped found with Recah Trinidad and Ding Marcelo in 1981. Surely, Rey Bancod, whom Recah and I recruited to join the sports staff back then and who is now the paper's sports editor, had scored it big with that story, which was written by Noli Cruz. Cheers to you, guys.

The problem, as always, is the need to produce a quintet that could match up against the opposition in the SEA Games. Since the PBA's birth in 1975, our professionals have never had any stint in the biennial meet. Always, it's been the nation's second stringers doing it for us. Luckily for us or, maybe, for sheer talent and skill, we kept beating our basketball foes in the Southeast Asian region, save for one edition when we got zapped by the Malaysians. But that has since been avenged and today, we lord it over in the SEA Games.

However, in the wake of what happened in Harbin, China, where we finished 15th among 16 teams in the ABC event—the country's worst finish—there is now serious doubt over our capability to retain the crown in Vietnam.

In the ABC, it is a given that, due to the PBA's policy to shy away from the tournament, we cannot regain the crown as China has reduced the event into its own virtual playground; our last victory was in 1986 but that was because we had three naturalized Americans in the team.

The SEA Games is different in that we can win the title there anytime even without help from PBA personnel. Only Malaysia and Thailand offer the strongest resistance and our college players, who are mostly honed in the PBL, can deal with them with gusto in combination with the scarred veterans from Chino Trinidad's turf.

The team that got plastered in the last ABC needs to be revamped. About half of the lineup must be discarded or we face a perilous task in Vietnam. Of the gold medals staked in Vietnam and all the previous SEA Games events, the basketball gold outshines them all. Even if Go Teng Kok's 10-gold medal production comes true this year, that will mean nothing if we lose the gold in basketball. Crazy, but that's how it is for us in the SEA Games since the country joined the event in 1977. Crazy, but basketball being almost a religion here, the game has become, next only to politics, the opiate of the masses.

Alvarez and Gonzales, easily two of the finest players from the collegiate ranks today, should be welcome additions to the RP Team.

They were not in Harbin but that was not their fault. They were not in Harbin but that was not their choice. Their elders had prevented them from going to Harbin because the ABC schedule had conflicted with the UAAP schedule. They never said no to Harbin; they said yes to their immediate superiors. They weren't unpatriotic when they didn't show up in Harbin or Muhammad Ali would be guilty of unpatriotic-like conduct when he refused to fight in the Vietnam War after he got drafted in the US Army. Ali's defense then that reverberated around the world was, "I have no quarrel with the Vietcongs." Ali was stripped of his world heavyweight boxing crown, but that did not diminish his name, his dignity; he would later regain his title after the courts had reversed a ruling banning him from boxing.

With their UAAP commitment done away with, Alvarez and Gonzales are now helping heal the wounds of divisiveness. They have started looking beyond the portals of Ateneo after having served their school in exemplary fashion. To deny them a stint in the national team would be too parochial an outlook, if not unpatriotic.

The ball is now in their elders' court.

RP to host Int'l Rotary golf tourney

THE PHILIPPINES scored another major sporting coup when it won the right to host the prestigious International Golfing Fellowship of Rotarians in 2007, which is expected to draw over 400 delegates from 28 countries all over the world.

"Our being chosen as the site is a recognition of our ability and skills to organize an international Rotary event of this magnitude," said Melito Salazar, chair of Rotary Fellowship Foundation of the Philippines in yesterday's PSA Forum at the Manila Pavilion.

Joining Salazar, a former Undersecretary of Trade and Industry, in the Forum sponsored by Agfa, Red Bull and Pagcor were Patrick Lee and Rene Magadia of Rotary Greenmeadows and Rotary Makati, respectively, which will co-host the tournament.

Salazar said the choice of the Philippines is significant since it marks only the second time in the IFGR's 44-year history that an Asian Country will host the affair since Japan hosted the event in 1987. In fact, this is the first time that the event will be held in the Southeast Asian region.

RACING

Race 1--1. Guided Missile 2. Ravensworth 3. Mika's Special 4. Time Deposit
Race 2--1. Silver Music 2. Little Sam 3. Cool Fashion
Race 3--1. Adam's Call 2. Field Master 3. L'Islat Sur Mer 4. Morena 5. Prime Time Show
Race 4--1. Native Talent 2. Night Flight 3. Regal Reality 4. Kumbawa
Race 5--1. Norisky 2. Chichana 3. Oh Diva 4. Fire Task 5. Sunny Sky
Race 6--1. Throttle 2. Terrific/Dampi 3. High Pocket 4. Harry's Up
Race 7--1. Angel Eyes 2. Blue Iris 3. Song Bird 4. Tiger Winnie 5. Nic of Time
Race 8--1. Red Star Rising 2. Chairman of D Board 3. Crystal City 4. Laughing Matter
Race 9--1. Alessandra 2. Empire King 3. Replica 4. Hurricane Doding 5. Surigao Princess 6. Secret Quest

WELLS TAKES CHARGE

One to go for Yankees

BOSTON—David Wells put the New York Yankees on the verge of another World Series, sending them back to the Bronx with two chances to keep The Curse alive.

Wells worked his way out of trouble to lead the Yankees over the Red Sox, 4-2, Tuesday for a 3-2 lead in the AL championship series. With one more victory, New York will extend Boston's perennial heartache to 85 years.

Andy Pettitte and Roger Clemens are rested and ready for the final two games of the series, which continues Wednesday (Thursday in Manila) at Yankee Stadium.

"We never get overconfident," Yankees captain Derek Jeter said.

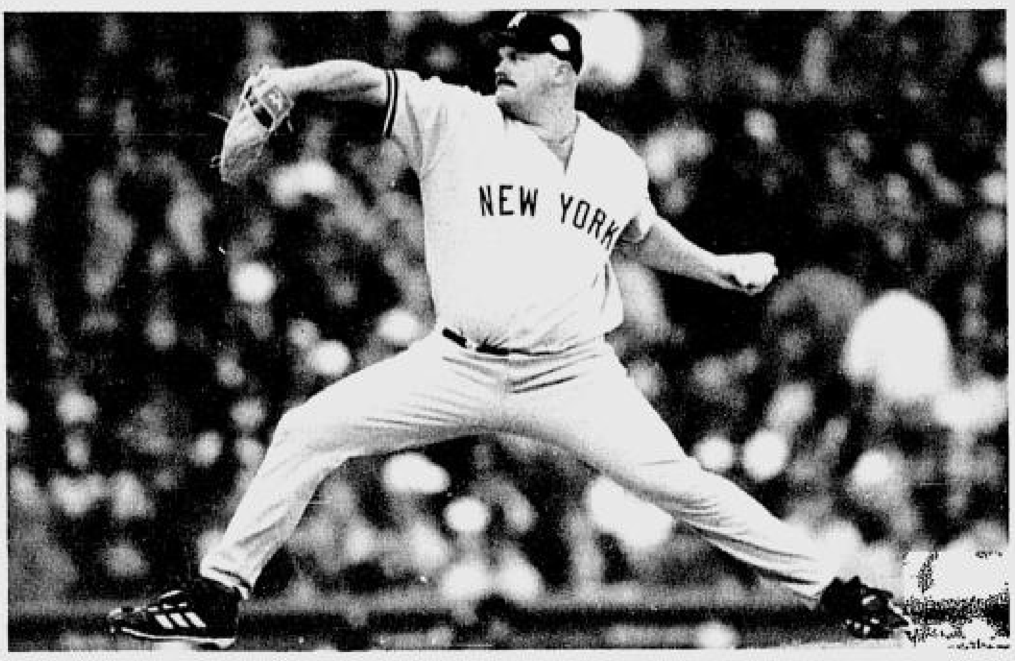
Boston planned to start John Burkett, 0-6 against the Yankees in his career in the regular season, against Pettitte in Game 6, holding Pedro Martinez back for a seventh game rather than pitch him on three days' rest. But knuckleballer Tim Wakefield; who has both of his team's wins, said he thought he would be available if the Red Sox wanted him in relief.

"The clock is ticking on us right now," Boston manager Grady Little said. "We'll just wait it out another day and see if they can get it going."

Karim Garcia, who cut a knuckle in Saturday's bullpen battle with a member of Boston's grounds crew, was inserted into New York's lineup just before gametime and hit a two-run single in the second off Derek Lowe, who dropped to 0-2 in the series. Boston fans taunted Garcia in the ninth with a sing-song chant of "Jailbird."

David Dellucci originally was slated to start in right field, but manager Joe Torre told Garcia he was in the lineup after watching him in batting practice.

"His eyes lit up," Torre said. "He thanked me." *AP*



WELLS pitches against the Boston Red Sox. AFP

Fan ruins Cubs day

CHICAGO—Five outs to go. The Wrigley Field crowd on its feet. The World Series within their grasp.

Then, it was almost as if the baseball gods realized these were the Chicago Cubs.

Those lovable losers blew it again thanks in part to—of all things— one of their own fans.

In a stunning eighth-inning turnaround, the Florida Marlins took advantage of left fielder Moises Alou's run-in with a fan on a foul fly and an error by shortstop Alex Gonzalez to score eight runs in an 8-3 victory Tuesday night, forcing the National League championship series to a Game 7.

Mark Prior, Sammy Sosa and the Cubs cruised into the eighth with a 3-0 lead, all set to end their 58-year absence from the World Series.

What followed was a sudden collapse that would rival anything in the Cubs' puzzling, painful past.

To add to the hurt, the fan who blocked Alou's path on Luis Castillo's ball was wearing a Cubs hat. Once the rally got in full swing, fans around the man, who looked to be in his early 20s, starting hurling beers in his direction and he was escorted out by security with a jacket over his face.

Now, after the Marlins' second straight win in the series, it goes down to Wednesday night (Thursday morning in Manila). *AP*

SPORTS TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

BASEBALL: 2003 MLB ALCS Game 6; 2 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. (r); ESPN - Take another look at the American League Championship between New York and Boston.

BASKETBALL: Bullets vs Sonics, Game 1 1979 Finals; 8 a.m.; Solar Sports - In a rematch of the 1978 NBA Finals, Washington manages to steal Game 1 at home to take the lead with just seconds remaining, and hold on to win, 99-97.

Vintage NBA - Jack Ramsay; 10 a.m. (r - 9 p.m.); Solar Sports - Get to know more about the only coach who let Portland to the Promised Land.

Kings vs Rockets, Game 5 1981 Western Finals; 11 a.m.; Solar Sports - The playoff run of Kansas City ends when they meet Moses Malone and the Houston Rockets. The Rockets dispatch the Kings in five games, with Moses Malone scoring 36 points in this deciding game.

2003 FIBA Tournament of the Americas - Get another look at the qualifying round for the Olympics.

TENNIS: Masters Series - Spain; 2 p.m., 6:30 and 9 p.m.; Star Sports - Witness tennis at its finest as second and third round action continues from Madrid.

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-LIGHTWEIGHT BUT RIGID

3 REAR BUMPER
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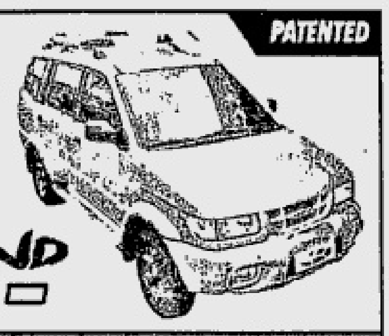

WINNING FORM. Inquirer chief photographer Ernie Sarmiento captured the winning form of RP Davis Cupper Joseph Victorino (above) during the PCA Open Tennis meet last year. This photo titled "The Young Assassin" won seond place in the contest sponsored by Photokina Marketing .

DFA. . .

From page A19

fairs Passport Division, Lim's passport (ZZ060716) issued in Manila on June 22, 2000 "has been cancelled" after "it has been established that Mr. Lim is a Chinese citizen and the Philippine passports previously issued to him were obtained through fraud."

The information was contained in a letter Catalla wrote Liberato Valenzuela, who had questioned Lim's citizenship in a complaint filed with the DFA on Oct. 13.

Lawyer Bonifacio Alentajan, legal counsel of Lim, said yesterday he has yet to receive a copy of the DFA order cancelling Lim's passport.

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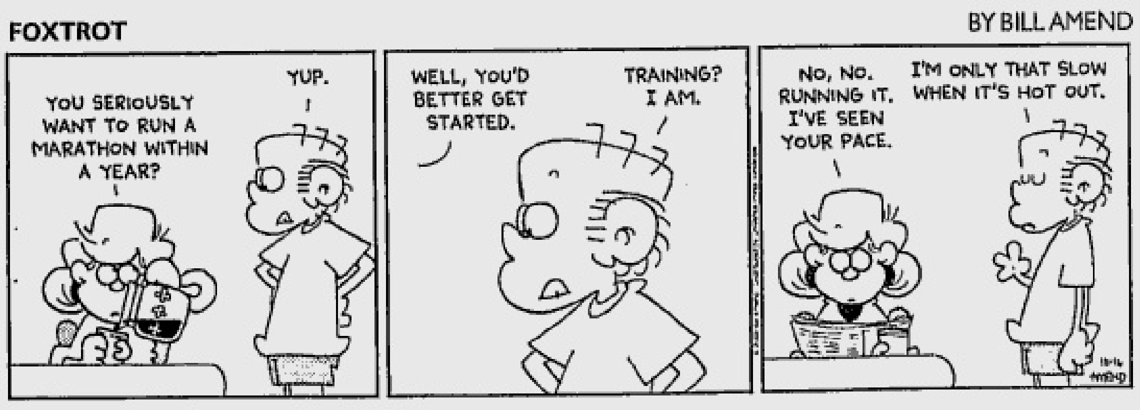
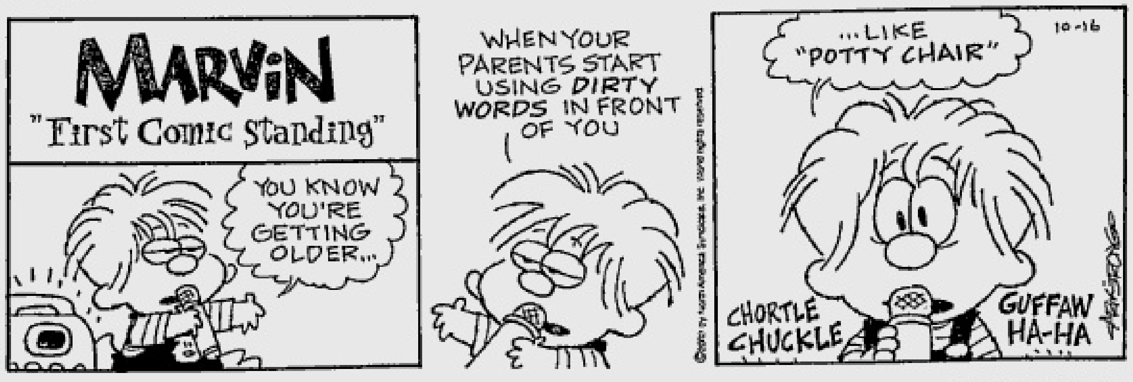
BY BILL AMEND


YOU SERIOUSLY WANT TO RUN A MARATHON WITHIN A YEAR?
YUP.
WELL, YOU'D BETTER GET STARTED.
TRAINING? I AM.
No, No. RUNNING IT. I'VE SEEN YOUR PACE.
I'M ONLY THAT SLOW WHEN IT'S HOT OUT.

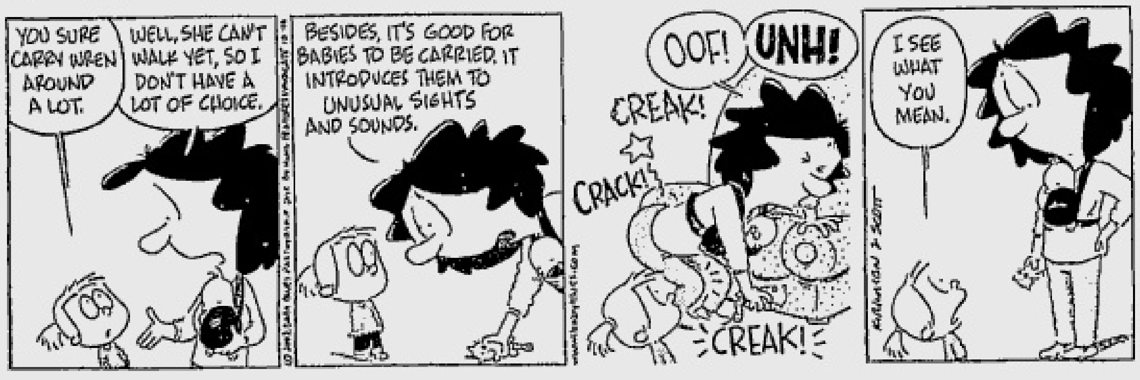
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


MARVIN
"First Comic Standing"
YOU KNOW YOU'RE GETTING OLDER...
WHEN YOUR PARENTS START USING DIRTY WORDS IN FRONT OF YOU
...LIKE "POTTY CHAIR"
10-16
CHORTLE CHUCKLE
GUFFAW HA-HA

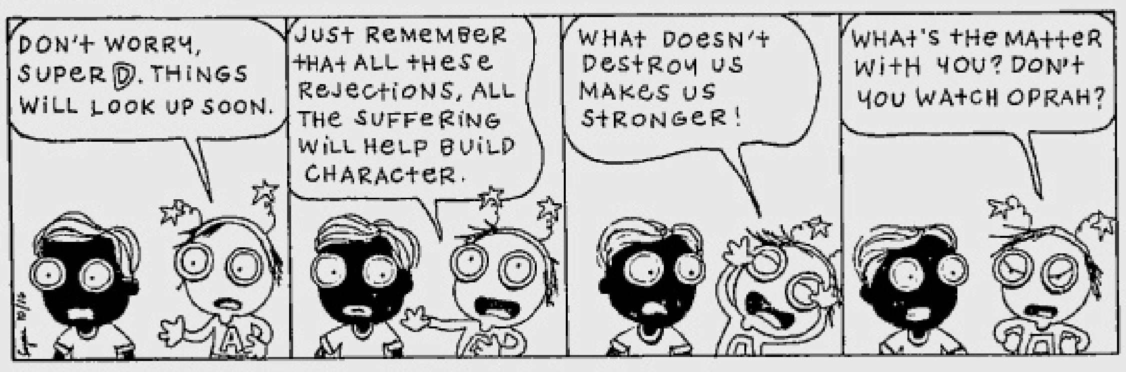
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


YOU SURE CARRY WREN AROUND A LOT.
WELL, SHE CAN'T WALK YET, SO I DON'T HAVE A LOT OF CHOICE.
BESIDES, IT'S GOOD FOR BABIES TO BE CARRIED. IT INTRODUCES THEM TO UNUSUAL SIGHTS AND SOUNDS.
OOF!
UNH!
CREAK!
CRACK!
CREAK!
I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN.

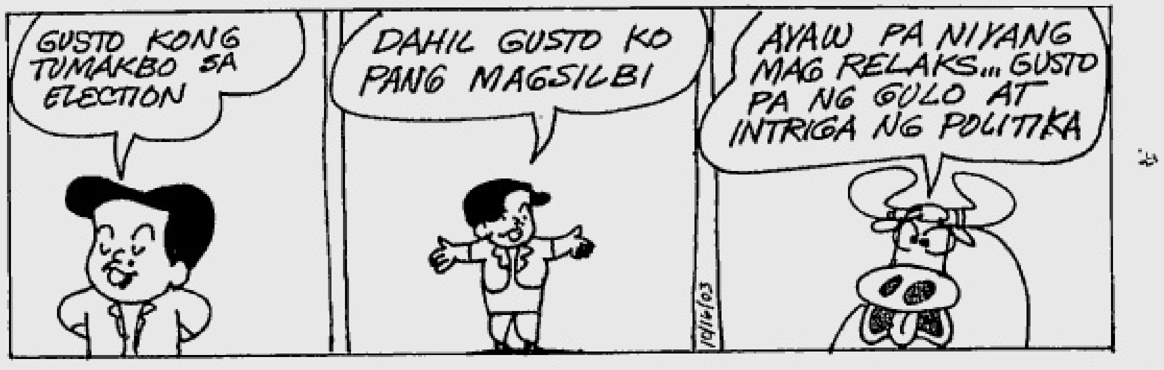
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


DON'T WORRY, SUPER D. THINGS WILL LOOK UP SOON.
JUST REMEMBER THAT ALL THESE REJECTIONS, ALL THE SUFFERING WILL HELP BUILD CHARACTER.
WHAT DOESN'T DESTROY US MAKES US STRONGER!
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU? DON'T YOU WATCH OPRAH?

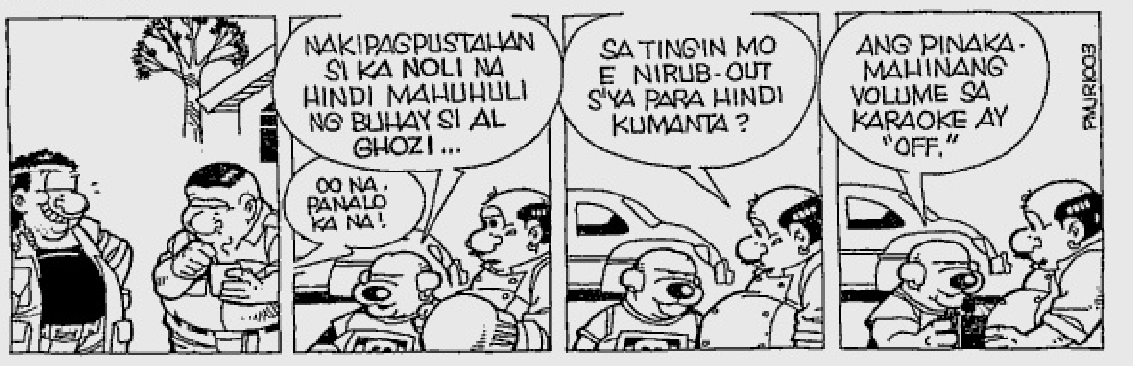
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


GUSTO KONG TUMAKBO SA ELECTION
DAHIL GUSTO KO PANG MAGSILBI
10/16/03
AYAW PA NIYANG MAG RELAKS... GUSTO PA NG GULO AT INTRIGA NG POLITIKA

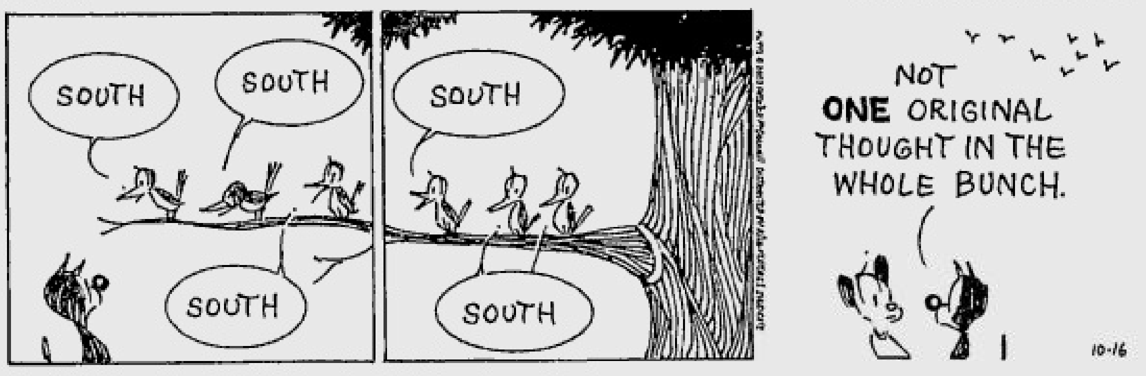
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NAKIPAGPUSTAHAN SI KA NOLI NA HINDI MAHUHULI NG BUHAY SI AL GHOZI...
OO NA. PANALO KA NA!
SA TING'IN MO E NIRUB-OUT S'YA PARA HINDI KUMANTA?
ANG PINAKA-MAHINANG VOLUME SA KARAOKE AY "OFF."
PMJR1003

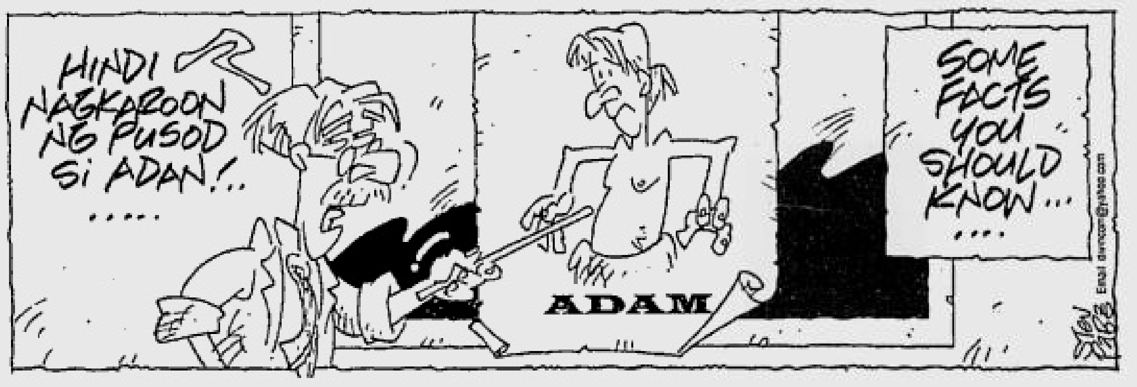
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SOUTH
SOUTH
SOUTH
SOUTH
SOUTH
NOT ONE ORIGINAL THOUGHT IN THE WHOLE BUNCH.
10-16

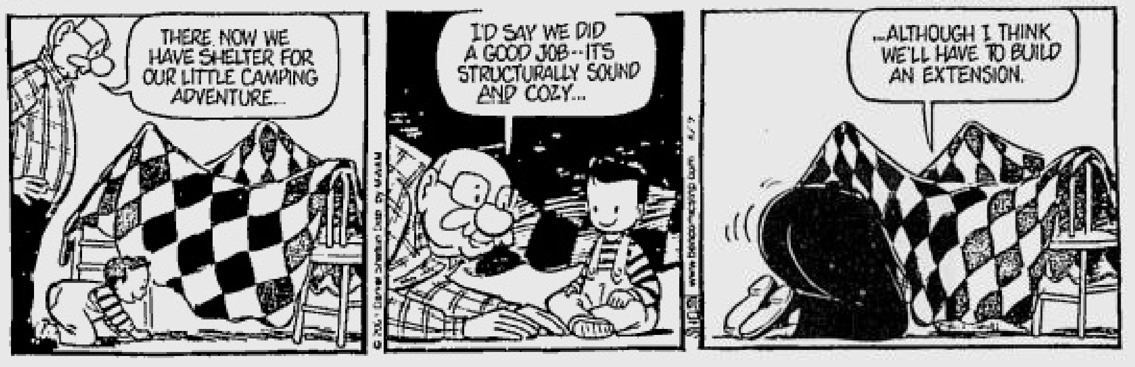
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


HINDI NAGKAROON NG PUSOD SI ADAN!..
.....
ADAM
SOME FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW...
....

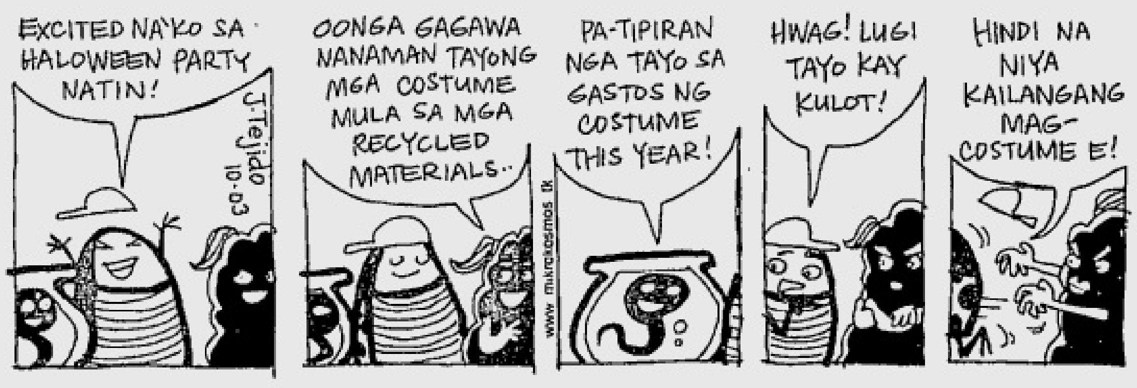
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


THERE. NOW WE HAVE SHELTER FOR OUR LITTLE CAMPING ADVENTURE...
I'D SAY WE DID A GOOD JOB--ITS STRUCTURALLY SOUND AND COZY...
...ALTHOUGH I THINK WE'LL HAVE TO BUILD AN EXTENSION.

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO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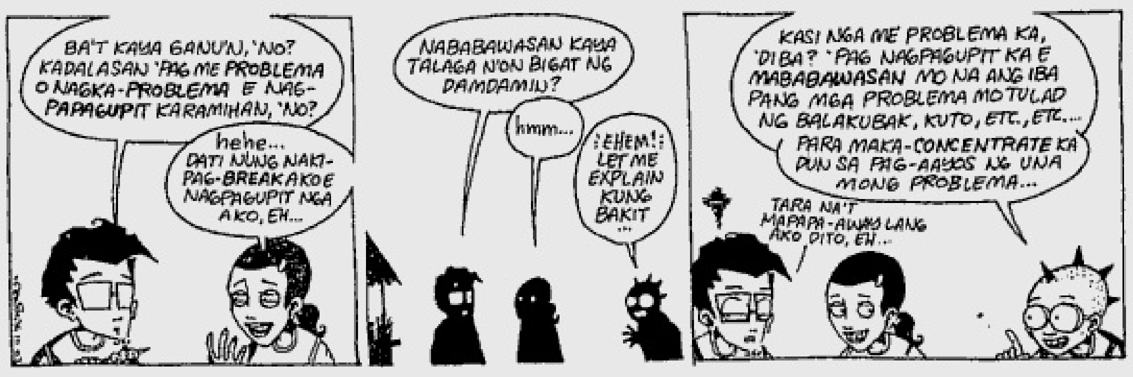
HWAG! LUGI TAYO KAY KULOT!
HINDI NA NIYA KAILANGANG MAG-COSTUME E!

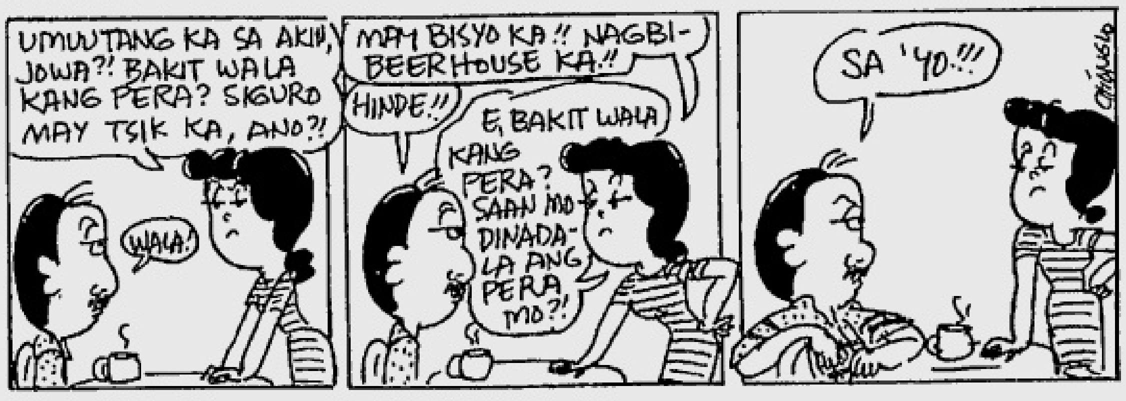
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


BA'T KAYA GANU'N, 'NO? KADALASAN 'PAG ME PROBLEMA O NAGKA-PROBLEMA E NAG-PAPAGUPIT KARAMIHAN, 'NO?
hehe... DATI NUNG NAKI-PAG-BREAK AKO E NAGPAGUPIT NGA AKO, EH...
NABABAWASAN KAYA TALAGA N'ON BIGAT NG DAMDAMIN?
hmm...
!EHEM! LET ME EXPLAIN KUNG BAKIT ...
KASI NGA ME PROBLEMA KA, 'DI BA? 'PAG NAGPAGUPIT KA E MABABAWASAN MO NA ANG IBA PANG MGA PROBLEMA MO TULAD NG BALAKUBAK, KUTO, ETC., ETC....
PARA MAKA-CONCENTRATE KA DUN SA PAG-AAYOS NG UNA MONG PROBLEMA...
TARA NA'T MAPAPA-AWAY LANG AKO DITO, EH...

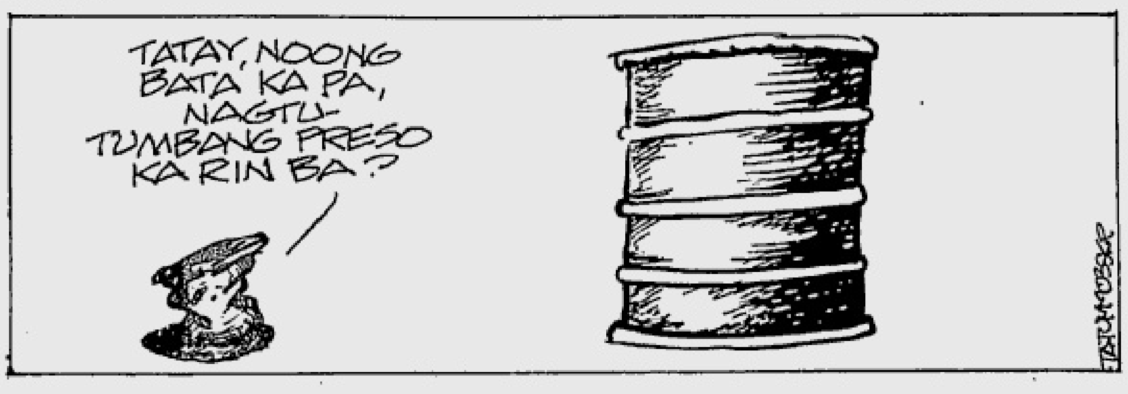
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


UMUUTANG KA SA AKIN, JOWA?! BAKIT WALA KANG PERA? SIGURO MAY TSIK KA, ANO?!
WALA!
MAY BISYO KA!! NAGBI-BEERHOUSE KA!!
HINDE!!
E, BAKIT WALA KANG PERA? SAAN MO DINADALA ANG PERA MO?!
SA 'YO!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


TATAY, NOONG BATA KA PA, NAGTU-TUMBANG PRESO KA RIN BA?

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are a strong believer in justice. You also understand the halls of power. Because of this, you easily see the crux of any situation. You are often in a position to influence others. You're careful, fair and, above all, practical. Work hard this year to prepare for changes next year.
Birthdate of: Tim Robbins, actor/writer/director; Suzanne Somers, actress/writer; Angela Lansbury, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Nothing is casual today. Intense discussions with others will get to the bottom of something. You want to penetrate beneath the surface layers of things to get to the nitty-gritty truth.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is an excellent day for research and problem-solving at work. You might be able to come up with fresh solutions for old troubles.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Your love of mystery and puzzles is aroused today. Any kind of game that solves mysteries or discovers secrets will appeal to you. (Why not do the crossword in this paper?)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Family secrets might be revealed today. This is also an excellent day for genealogy or any kind of research into the past—especially family history.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You feel sure you're right about something today. Because of this, you want to change the views of others so that they will agree with you. Don't get carried away.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Research could reveal great moneymaking ideas today. If you study a problem long enough, you might come up with an entirely new approach to doing things. Whatever it is, it will be more profitable.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You might meet somebody who is quite profound today. It is said that when the student is ready, the teacher will appear.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You find it easy to get to the bottom of things: insurance, the government, large institutions or secrets you've wondered about. Great day for investigation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is the kind of day where people want to persuade others to agree with them. Everybody is convinced they're right. Knowing this, you can be a bit more reasonable.

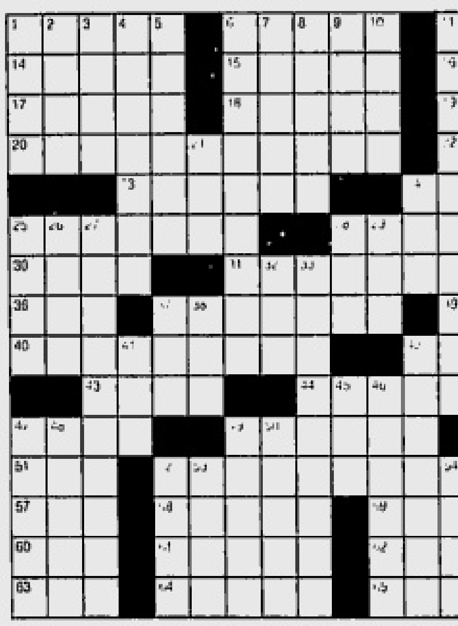
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Don't hesitate to examine, scrutinize and probe situations that are work-related or affect your career. Somebody could give you a hot tip about something. Stay alert!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Any kind of study—especially philosophical, religious, political or metaphysical—will appeal to you today. You want to penetrate the core of things. You want the truth!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Your ability to research is excellent today. Use this skill to come up with answers you've been seeking. They could be related to shared finances, joint property, debt or taxes (or even your sex life).

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Ending words
6 Undue speed
11 Distant
14 Sitcom demo
15 Fighting battles
16 Emotional poem
17 Come next
18 Yashmaks
19 Siesta
20 Bugsy's car?
22 Single gaming cube
23 Frightens
24 Scruggs or Weaver
25 All __ go!
28 "The Face Is Familiar" poet
30 Tykes
31 Those who concur
36 Sharing pronoun
37 "__ Lineman"
39 Classical prefix
40 Like deli fare
42 Man with an apple
43 Black, in poetry
44 Trap
47 Elec. units
49 Throbbed
51 Englishman in India
52 Mike & Gloria's car?
57 Anger
58 Bedclothes
59 Poetic Muse
60 Pet detective Ventura
61 Bones in forearms
62 Meted
63 Pacifying concession
64 Bottle material
65 Adversary



By Verna Suit
Silver Spring, MD
10/16/03

DOWN
1 Copies
2 Brief skirt
3 Do it or __!
4 Chewy candies
5 Brosnan series, "Remington __"
6 Backpack cousin
7 Mr. T's group
8 Belts from the jug
9 Unbelievable, story-wise
10 Gaelic tongue
11 Jane's car?
12 Jerry or Red
13 Beat back
21 Flight from the law
24 Erhard's program
25 Telegraphic period
26 "__ Cheatin' Heart"
27 Meryl's car?
28 Profit figure
29 Literary collection
32 That girl
33 Benches
34 Admiral type
35 A few
37 Court
38 Charged particle
41 "The Price Is Right" network
42 Firedog
45 Grp. of D.C. advisers
46 Leave the Union
47 Puccini numbers
48 Italian explorer Polo
49 Zoological feather
50 Parts of eyes
52 Illegal metal disk
53 Cultivate
54 Crooner Jerry
55 Agenda listing
56 Buffalo Bill

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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10/16/03

Tours, Leisure & Chow

cmadamba@inquirer.com.ph
897-8808 local 209 and 238

Alden Joshua Cedo, Graphics Design

Dusit Hotel Nikko whimsical Halloween

'Witches' hats
and harvest
moon
Ghosts that
dance to
haunted tune.
Apples, goodies,
food galore
Halloween has
this and more.'

DUSIT Hotel Nikko celebrates a whimsical Halloween this year with special treats for kids and adults alike.

Dress up your little darlings to win best in costume. Let them learn scientific facts with the Mad Science Show and get a kick with our face painters. A special kids buffet will be available for P350++. Enjoy all of these on Oct. 31, 2 p.m. at Dusit Hotel Nikko's The Café.

Guests may join the event through any of the following: (1) Avail yourself of the room package for only P3,500 net and get a free pass for two kids aged 12 and below; (2) Dine in any outlet of the hotel from Oct. 25 to 31 and receive free passes to the event for two kids, provided your minimum single receipt is P1,500; (3) Or simply bring the little ones on Oct. 31 and pay P250.

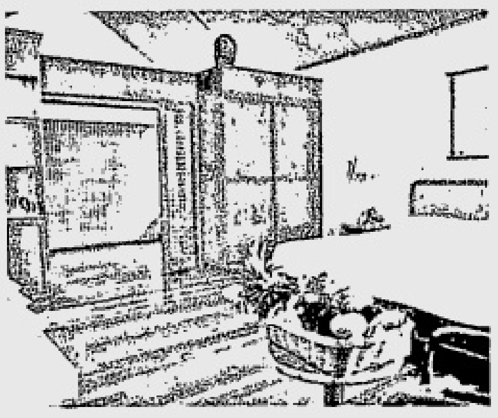
Adults may also come in their most spectacular costume on Oct. 31, 8 p.m. at Fiesta San Miguel and get the chance to win fabulous prizes. Plus, witness the Oktoberfest beer drinking contest grand finals and join the Vampire's Thirst—a dare to drink contest, and party til the wee hours of the morning with Manila's top entertainers.

Enjoy the Masquerade Party with Fiesta San Miguel's "O'beer Flowing" promo (an ongoing Oktoberfest promotion until Oct. 31). For only P300++, guests may drink all freshly brewed San Miguel beer they can from 5:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. A 10-percent discount on top of the Weekend Room Package (all weekends of October) of P3,500 net will be given to those with minimum single receipts of P600++ at Fiesta San Miguel.

Dusit Hotel Nikko's Whimsical Halloween is sponsored by Nestle, Leslie Corp, Enchanted Kingdom, Richwell Trading, Comfoods, Purefoods San Miguel, Jellyace and James Cooper.

For queries and reservations, call 867-3333 local 3246 for the kiddie treat and local 3308 for the masquerade party.

Pamper yourself at Barcelo Pearl Farm



LEAVE your worries behind as The Barceló Pearl Farm Island Resort lets you recharge and experience the good life through its fabulous "Stress-out Package."

At only P3,350 per person (twin/triple sharing) for an overnight stay in a Samal House and P3,650 per person (twin/triple sharing) for the Mandaya House. This special offer already includes roundtrip airport and boat transfers, welcome drink, breakfast and lunch at the Maranao Restaurant, choice of dinner or body massage at the Ylang-Ylang Soothing Lounge, and complimentary use of selected recreational facilities. The package is a limited offer valid only until Dec. 15.

The Barceló Pearl Farm Island Resort is for those seeking an ideal haven to indulge the senses in tropical bliss. For inquiries and reservations on the "Stress-out Package," call its Manila sales office at 867-2951, 867-2847 and 867-1159. You may also visit www.barcelo-asia.com.

Fun Halloween weekend at New World Renaissance Hotel

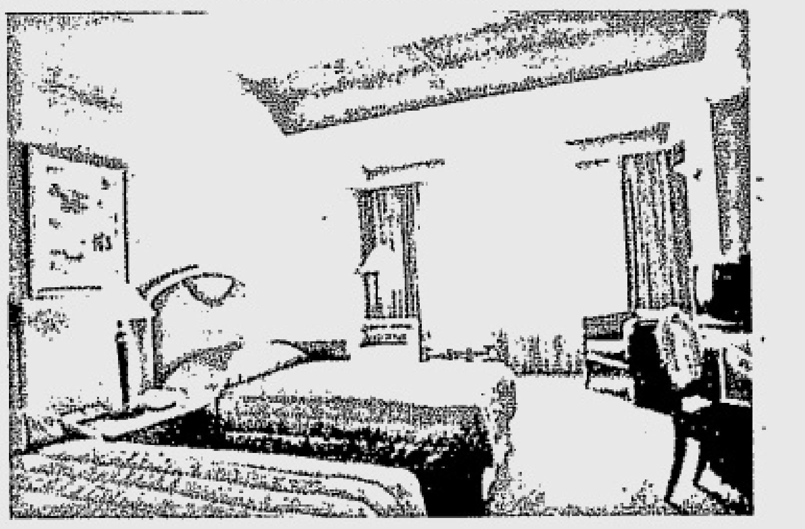
AN exciting Halloween weekend awaits families, especially the kids, at the New World Renaissance Hotel, as it offers tempting room packages on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1.

Enjoy plush facilities and savvy services at P1,500++ (room only) or P2,500++ (includes a sumptuous buffet breakfast at the bustling Coffee Shop) per night. These special room rates are for a maximum of two adults and two children below 12 in a deluxe room.

The Halloween weekend stay's main attraction is the Tricks or Treats Children's Halloween Party on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1 from 3 to 6 p.m. Kids get a special invitation to this fun-filled event should their families avail themselves of the Halloween room package or dine in any of the hotel's restaurants during said dates. The Children's Halloween Party, exclusive to hotel patrons, promises an exhilarating afternoon

of games, a magic show, face painting, trick or treat, goodie bags, and of course, ghouls, ghosts, monsters, and mummies. A "Tunnel of Horror" welcomes all who attend the affair. A special prize for best costume also awaits the most creative and scariest dressed child.

The New World Renaissance Hotel's lobby will also be decked during this period with an imaginative display to complete the Halloween atmosphere.



For more information and reservations, call 8116888. Room rates are subject to 10-percent service charge and 10.5 percent government tax.

GENESIS HOTELS -CLEARWATER RESORTS PARTNERSHIP

Denny Wang, president and CEO of YATS Development Corp Clearwater Resort seals with a handshake his partnership with Genesis Hotels and Resorts President Miguel G. Cerqueda. Clearwater Resort is located in Clarkfield, Pampanga and is the newest lifestyle resort taking leisure living by nature to new heights.

Rex Navarette returns to Cebu Nov. 15

BY popular demand, Waterfront Entertainment Corp. and Active Imaging Inc present anew ace stand-up comic Rex Navarrete in "Rex Navarrete President 2003" on Nov. 15, 9 p.m. at Waterfront Cebu City Hotel's Atlantic Hall. Ticket prices are P800 (VIP) and P600 (Deluxe).

In his first Cebu show last Aug 2—a sold-out event-Navarrete brought the house down and had Cebuanos rolling in laughter, resulting to clamors for more and the return engagement on Nov. 15.

In line with the event, Waterfront Cebu City Hotel is offering a special room package promo to ticket holders and Air Philippines passengers. Just present the show ticket or Air Philippines boarding pass from Nov. 8 to 15, and avail yourself of a room for only P2,300 net (single with breakfast) or P2,600 net (double with breakfast). An even better deal is to avail yourself of a room for only P2,000 Net (single or double with breakfast) when you present both show ticket and boarding pass.

For inquiries and reservations, call (032) 4129252 (Telefax) and (032) 2354605. Tickets are also available at the lobby of the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel, Kaona Grill, Y101.1, Baseline Restaurant and Ayala Center Customer Care. The show is sponsored by Air Philippines, International Pharmaceuticals and Kaona Grill.

CENTURY PARK HOTEL'S INTIMATE DINNER AT THE GM'S TABLE

Century Park Hotel general manage Paul Gill recently hosted an intimate dinner for the hotel's media friends. Gill was responsible for preparing the six-course menu and personally chose the wines that were served that evening. Shown (seated, from left) are Raoul Chee Kee of Business World, Ria Romero of Joey 92.3 FM, and Leah Salterio of ABS-CBN. Standing (from left) are Totel De Jesus of Today, CPH PRO Toti Palileo, CPH GM Paul Gill, Celine Madamba of Philippine Daily Inquirer and CPH PR manager Steve Naguiat.

Where to Stop Where to GO

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

New World Renaissance Hotel
Esperanza St. cor. makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 811-6888/Fax. 811-6777
www.marriott.com

Makati Shangri-La Hotel
Ayala Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 813-8888/ Fax 813-5499
www.shangri-la.com

Dusit Hotel Nikko
Ayala Center, 1223 Makati City Phil.
Tel. 867-3333 Email: dusitmnl@dusit.com
http://manila.dusit.com

Barcelo Hotels and Resorts
4/F Adamson Centre, 121 LP Leviste St.
Salcedo Village, Makati
Tel. (02) 867-1159/ fax (02) 867-1185
www.barcelo-asia.com

Mactan Island Resort
Punta Engano Road, Lapu Lapu Cebu
Tel. (632) 231-0288/Fax (632) 231-1688
www.shangri-la.com

Intercontinental Manila
1 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel 815-9711
www.intercontinental.com

ASTORIA PLAZA
15 J. Escriva Drive, Ortigas Business District,
Pasig City 1600
Tel 687-1111 Fax 910-0370
Email: sales@astoriaplaza.com

The Marco Polo
CM Recto St. Davao City 8000
Tel. (082) 221-0888/fax (082) 225-0111
www.marcopolohotels.com

Hotel Veniz
No. 1 Abanao St. Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0700/fax (074) 446-0704

Hotel Supreme
113 Magsaysay Ave., Baguio City
Tel. (074) 443-2011 to 18 / Fax. (074) 442-2855

Skyrise Hotel
18 Dominican Road, Baguio City
Tel (074) 445-6834 to 36 /fax (074) 443-3897

The Peninsula Manila Hotel
Cor. Ayala Ave. & Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 810-3456/ Fax 815-4825

Mandarin Oriental Manila
Paseo de Roxas cor. Makati Ave. Makati City
Tel. 750-8888
www.mandarinoriental.com

The Bellevue Manila
North Bridgeway, Northgate
Alabang, Muntinlupa
Tel. (632) 771-8181/ fax (632) 771-8282
www.thebellevue.com.ph

Waterfront Hotel Lahug
1 Salinas Drive, Lahug Cebu City
Tel. (6332) 232-6888/Fax (6332)232-6880
www.waterfronthotels.net

Waterfront Hotel Mactan
1 Airport Road, Lapu Lapu City, 6015
Tel. (6332) 340-4888/fax (6332) 340-5693
www.waterfronthotels.net

Royal Mandaya Hotel
J. Palma Gil St. Davao City
Tel. (082) 225-8888/fax (082) 225-1888

Camp John Hay Manor
Loakan Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0231 to 50

City Travel Hotel
15 Kisad Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 445-0456 / Fax (074) 445-0457

Cooyeesan Hotel Plaza
Naguilian cor. Asin Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 447-8888 to 93/ (074) 447-8895 to 98
Fax. (074) 447-0494

Golden Pine Hotel and Restaurant
Intersection of Carino St. and Legarda
Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074)444-9965 to 72/740-8975/
Fax. (074) 446-0704

Taal Vista Hotel
Aguinaldo Highway, Tagaytay City
Tel. (046) 413-1000/fax. (046) 413-1225

For Feedback and inquiries, call
899-4426 or 897-8808 loc 209

Balladeer does a Bennet

HARD ROCK Café recently veered from its usual lineup of stars when it featured Arthur Manuntag, and it was a success as far as the audience was concerned.

The 6-foot-tall, pony-tailed balladeer is known for doing a mean Tony Bennett, only, he does it a note higher. One foreigner in the audience last Sept. 26 commented that Arthur sounded more like Bennett than Bennett himself.

During the show, Arthur sang Bennet classics like "If I Ruled the World," "Till," "Stranger in Paradise," "Come Fly With Me," "Because of You," "I Can't Stop Loving You," "I Won't Cry Anymore," "I Left My Heart in San Francisco," and many more.

The sexy Ms Vivian Velez and Arhur did a duet of "Blue Moon," which had the high-spirited audience yelling for more.

Arthur was backed by Romy Posadas on the piano, Roger Herrera on bass, Voltaire on second keyboard, Ding Basbas on sax, Ricky Posadas on drums and Laura on percussion.

MANUNTAG

SHOW TIME

Jazz, pop at Taste Buds

TASTE BUDS, "the food and fun republic" at Robinsons Place Manila, features jazz artist Paul Soto with the Abednego band on Saturday, Oct. 18, and the pop alternative music of Zap featuring Mailbox on Oct. 25.

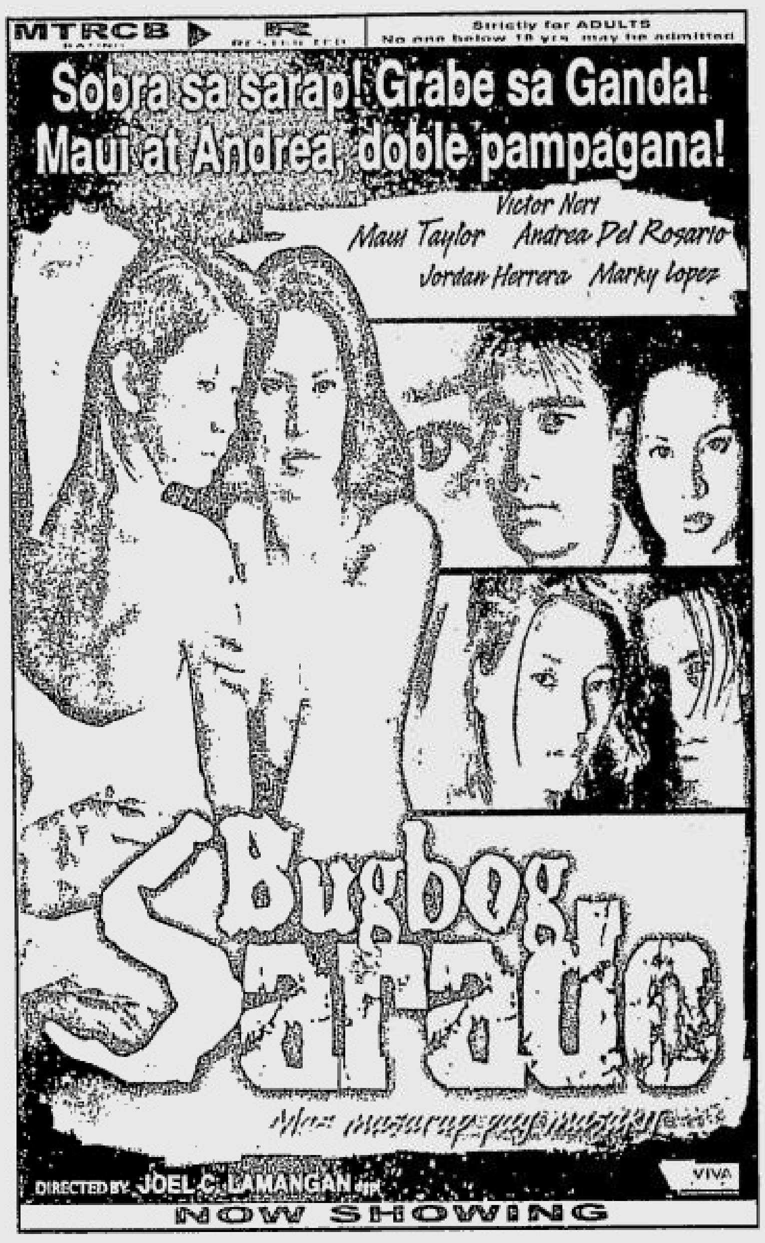
All shows start at 6 p.m.

Taste Buds is on the second level of the Pedro Gil wing of Robinsons Place Manila.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	BUGBOG SARADO
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	BUGBOG SARADO
B	
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
CINEMA-2	TREK
CINEMA-3	PILYA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	HOW TO DEAL
CINEMA-6	KISKISAN
CINEMA-7	PRINSIPE AT SIRENA
CINEMA-8	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	FREAKY FRIDAY
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MATCHSTICK MEN
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	THE SUSPECT
CINEMA-12	HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
CINEMA-14	UNDERWORLD
CINEMA-15	BUGBOG SARADO
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PINAS)	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
CINEMA-1	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
CINEMA-2	FREDDY VS. JASON
CINEMA-4	PILYA
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

NOW SHOWING
YOU'LL NEVER GET OUT ALIVE!
MTRCB RATING R-13 | Strictly for 13 years of age and up.
"True horror is back." -THE UNKNOWN MUTANT, NBC
"If feeling disturbed is your thing, this one's at least worth a look." -MERVIUS, FANTASTICA DAILY
"A great achievement in horror filmmaking." -MIKE McGRANAGHAN, AISLE SEAT
GOD BLESS THIS HOUSE.
ROB ZOMBIE'S HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES


MTRCB RATING R RESTRICTED | Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted
Sobra sa sarap! Grabe sa Ganda! Maui at Andrea, doble pampagana!
Victor Neri
Maui Taylor Andrea Del Rosario
Jordan Herrera Marky Lopez
Bugbog Sarado
DIRECTED BY: JOEL C. LAMANGAN
VIVA
NOW SHOWING

3RD WEEK
#1 MOVIE IN AMERICA
Watch "UNDERWORLD" in your favorite theaters & be among the first to see the worldwide trailer launch of "LOTR 3: RETURN OF THE KING".
MTRCB RATING R-18 | Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. old may be admitted
VAMPIRES vs. WEREWOLVES... only the strongest will survive.
NEW VERSION R-18 MORE ACTION, MORE TERROR, MORE SPECIAL EFFECTS
KATE BECKINSALE
SCOTT SPEEDMAN
UNDERWORLD

THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 FREAKY FRIDAY 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00 GP
CINEMA 2 SUSPECT 11:30, 1:50, 4:10, 6:30, 8:50 R13
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MUSIC MUSEUM
OCT 17 & 18 PAOLO SANTOS BY REQUEST 9:00PM
OCT 23 MARISSA SANCHEZ AT THE MUSIC MUSEUM 9:00PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION PLS. CALL: 721-6726 OR 721-0635

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NOW SHOWING
matchstick men (mach stik men) n. pl. 1. Sleek con artists who have masterly portrayed the art of sweet-talking people into generously giving into to their desired purpose (Purpose maybe money, a thing, or a specified behavior) 2. Men who steal via wit, trickery, charm & confusion 3. Disturbed & troubled individuals who are on the verge of coming into an emotional or psychological breakdown (behavior traits: obsessive compulsive, chain-smoker & no personal relationships); severely complicated by the arrival of a teenage daughter 4. A sneakily, clever top-notch film by Sir Ridley Scott (Gladiator & Black Hawk Down)
NICOLAS CAGE SAM ROCKWELL ALISON LOHMAN
A RIDLEY SCOTT FILM
MATCHSTICK MEN
WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7
Ali 1 BUGBOG SARADO
Ali 2 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
Ali 3 UNDERWORLD
Ali 4 THE SUSPECT
Ali 5 FREAKY FRIDAY
Ali 6 AMERICAN PIE
Ali 7 MATCHSTICK MEN
ARANETA COLISEUM
OCT 16/17/18 UAAP / NCCA ALL STAR GAME
OCT 19 UAAP / NCAA ALL STAR GAME
OCT 20 UCAP 7-STAG DERBY
OCT 22 UCAP 7-STAG DERBY
OCT 25 DZRJ'S 40TH GRAND REUNION
Opens Dec. 23 DISNEY ON ICE "Beauty & The Beast"
BUY YOUR TICKETS EARLY TO GET THE BEST SEATS!
Call TicketNet at 911-5555

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NOW SHOWING
Every teenager's nightmare... turning into her mother.
So funny it will freak you out!
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freaky-friday.com

Survey says ratings enforcement record improved

WASHINGTON—An undercover investigation by the US government released on Tuesday showed the entertainment industry was doing better in barring youths from access to material depicting violence, but eight out of 10 youngsters in the survey were still able to buy adult-rated DVDs.

The Federal Trade Commission hired a contractor to recruit youths aged between 13 and 16 to try to buy adult-rated movie tickets, movies on DVD, music, and electronic games at 899 theaters and stores in 39 states.

The survey found movie theaters enforced age restrictions most strictly; only 36 percent of the unaccompanied youths in the 2003 survey were able to buy adult-rated movie tickets, a drop of 12 percentage points from the previous survey in 2001.

The survey said 83 percent of the children were able to purchase adult-rated music, down seven percentage points. It also said 69 percent could buy violent video games, down from 78 percent in 2001.

The survey said 81 percent of the youths were able to buy adult DVD movies, included in the survey for the first time this year.

The survey, targeted at material portraying violence, did not specify at what age a consumer would be regarded as an adult for the various products involved.

Representatives of the movie-making and theater industries hailed the survey results.

"We are pleased that our ratings enforcement record has improved," John Fithian, president of the National Association of Theatre Owners, said in a statement.

"Our movie theater members have taken aggressive steps to comply with the ratings and to refuse the sale of tickets for R-rated movies to children under the age of 17," Fithian said.

Amy Weiss, a spokeswoman for the Recording Industry Association of America, said executives were "pleased that the parental advisory program has been strengthened over the past couple of years, and parents and consumers are more aware than ever about the parental advisory system."

The entertainment industry has come under pressure in the past from lawmakers and in government reports for marketing adult products to kids. *Reuters*

No one is qualified to be the next Inday Badiday

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

> *The only truly dead are those who have been forgotten.*
> *—Jewish saying*

MOMMY dearest,

My heart is heavy, yet empty. Writing to you ought to be easy for me because we know each other best, but writing about you now renders me incapacitated.

All our lives we have been fond of writing letters to each other, even during the time we lived under the same roof. And now that we live in different realms, I know that you will still manage to respond to this letter. I will find your answers in my heart every day.

As I go through your old letters to me, I run the whole gamut of emotions. I weep, smile, sigh, laugh, wonder, miss. There's no telling when this will end.

They say in time I will recover. But they don't know me the way you do. I refuse to dismiss this as just another phase in my life, as if I were just letting go of a lover or trying to forget a painful memory.

How can I forget you when every time I face the cameras I see your face, and every time I hold a microphone I hear your voice? Somehow I know you will always be around. Now you really see me in all my sleeping and waking hours. I feel your presence every time any sunflower object pops out of nowhere as I go through the daily grind. You have always loved sunflowers and you collected all sorts of sunflower items.

Come to think of it, your passing on has transformed a wildflower like me into a sunflower. I shall no longer drift aimlessly. I must now learn how to face the sun and embrace everything positive in this world, as you intended it to be so that I would be in full bloom.

Every thought and memory of you will be my sunlight and my sunshine.

Watching all the tributes and reading all the superlative articles about you leaves me in awe. But even without all those accolades, I have always known what an exceptional woman you are. I call you superwoMOM and there will never be any runners-up, no matter how sincerely they try to play second mom to Ricky, Clara and me.

When people ask me if I am going to continue what you started, I am dumbfounded. Nobody, not even me whom you have always called your extension, is qualified to be the next Inday Badiday.

The least I could do to honor you is to add up the bits and pieces of our wonderful, colorful life together and keep on living and loving the way you taught me how.

We had our share of arguments and misunderstandings, but those episodes made us appreciate each other more. It's almost uncanny seeing so much of myself in you and you seeing so much of yourself in me that we tended to clash sometimes. As we both "grew up," we never did outgrow our need for each other.

Through the years (which also happens to be the title of the song that reminds me of you), we have learned to genuinely like each other. Loving each other came instinctively. We will always be two halves of love.

I will not simply say thank you, Ma. I will spend my life in gratitude to you by looking after Ricky, Clara, my kids, nephews and nieces the way you always, always took care of our every need and want.

When loneliness envelopes me as I miss every single thing about you and about us, I take comfort in the thought that you were more than ready for your close-up with God.

When I think of you, Ma, it will always be lights, camera, action. Your love will light my way. You've got heaven's camera zooming in on me wherever I may be. And the pain of your passing on will serve as the fuel in all my actions as I try to be better so that you may be even just half as proud of me as I am of you.

There's no packing up for you, Ma. The show goes on and on and on. It's just that the Greatest Director up there decided to make you change location.

Wherever you are, Ma, you deserve a standing ovation, not just for all you have achieved on-cam but for all the lives you have changed for the better, off-cam.

Take a bow, Ma, for a life well-lived and for the love you spread around so well. I will be standing by as I look forward to our next one-on-one heart-to-heart encounter.

Saranghamneda,
Your Taxina

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com or dollyannetruefaithband.com

KIDMAN

Nicole Kidman wins case vs tabloid over 'affair' with co-star Jude Law

LONDON—A London court on Tuesday awarded Oscar best actress Nicole Kidman undisclosed libel damages after a newspaper wrongly accused her of having an adulterous affair with British actor Jude Law.

"I am glad that this has finally been resolved," Kidman, 37, said in a press statement after lawyers for The Sun tabloid admitted the March allegations had been false and agreed to pay her damages and legal costs.

Law was married to British actress Sadie Frost at the time of the allegations.

Kidman's lawyer Keith Schilling told the court "the publication of the article caused damage to the claimant's personal and professional reputation and she has suffered considerable embarrassment and distress."

As well as paying fines and damages, The Sun and its owners News Group Newspapers vowed never to repeat the allegations.

Kidman, an Australian who won last year's Academy Award for best actress for her performance as the writer Virginia Woolf in "The Hours," is to donate the money made from her legal action to a charity which helps abandoned children in Romania, where part of the film "Cold Mountain" was set.

Kidman and Law starred in the movie based on an American novel.

The film is yet to be released in Britain. *AFP*

LAW

Boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: What is your religion?

Guest: Now, or before?

Host: Well, let's say before—before: When you were physically born, did you go to Catholic Church, or what?

(Say again-please!)

***

Host: You are accusing the investigators handling your brother's case of bias?

Guest: It's very clear! *'Di pa nga naka*-testify *ang mga* victim *na pinaslang*, they're already accusing my brother!

(*Paano makaka*-testify *ang mga* victim *na pinaslang*?)

***

Host: How was your cultural trip to the province last week?

Guest: It was unforgettable —history come alive! Like this church in this photo, it has so many niches, which shows us how many *ilustrados* lived them!

(The ilustrados lived in those niches?!)

***

Host: About your feud with (name of star), what's the latest development?

Guest: *Sa totoo lang*, there's no feud. It's just baseless gossip. My God, how can I even think of competing with her? I'm only a newcomer, but she's already conquered a lot of awards and everything!

(*Ay*, conquered a lot of awards!)

***

Host: I hear you were the *ninong* last week at the wedding of one of your fans?

Guest: Yes, in the province. It was unusual.

Host: What was so unusual about it?

Guest: *Biruin mo*, 19 years old *ang tanda ng babae sa lalaki*?!

(Ah, so…)

***

Host: Did you read the news this morning? The fight against terrorism is starting to catch some big terrorist leaders!

Co-host: Yes, Bush must be so happy after the capture yesterday of Ramsi Al Shid, or whatever the guy's name was!

(Aren't you supposed to know his name?)

***

Host: What do you have to say about the rumor that Tony Curtis was gay?

Guest: I believe it.

Host: Oh? Why?

Guest: I remember, he played a Viking in a movie one time.

(What fantastic logic!)

***

Host: How did you react when you were told that you were nominated for an acting award in the festival?

Guest: I was so pleasantly surprised, it come from out of the blues!

(*Ay*, from out of the blues!)

Heritage sites

EIGHT Philippine locations designated as World Heritage sites by Unesco (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) are featured in the new video documentary, "Legacy: Philippine World Heritage Sites."

The documentary by Butch Nolasco follows heritage conservation advocate Augusto "Toti" Villalon as he journeys to the eight sites, which were chosen for their "outstanding universal value to humanity."

These sites are the Tubbataha Reef National Marine Park, the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park, the Rice Terraces of the Cordilleras, the historic town of Vigan in Ilocos Sur, and the four baroque churches of Paoay, Santa Maria, Miag-ao and San Agustin in Manila.

The video, which was funded by the NCCA (National Commission for Culture and the Arts), seeks to create public awareness about the richness and diversity of the country's natural and cultural heritage, and to stress the urgent need for their preservation.

'Body Challenge'

EVERY Friday at 10 p.m., the "Body Challenge" six-part reality series challenges participants to lose weight, get in shape and make an overall positive lifestyle change. For 16 weeks, the show tracks three men and three women as they follow an intense program of diet and exercise with the help of their own personal trainers.

As the series chronicles their progress, viewers experience every exciting and agonizing moment as the six contestants strive to be the challenger who makes the most positive lifestyle change.

Jolina M is Annie B

AS IF Jolina Magdangal still has to prove that she is a capable comedian, dancer and singer, the young star gets to be all three at the same time in her new movie.

The movie is "Annie B. (Bida ng Ukay-Ukay, Bongga Siya 'Day)," her first solo starrer since "Kung Ikaw ay Isang Panaginip" and her first for Viva Films.

"Inspired *ako*," says Jolina, without letting on any more. "*Ayoko lang magsalita muna kasi ayoko nang magulo. Basta masaya ako.*"

In the movie, Jolina plays Annie, an *ukay-ukay* salesgirl who, like it says in the classic song, loves going to the disco. Joining her are Mel Martinez who plays her gay best friend, Dingdong Dantes as the owner of the advertising agency who discovers Annie for a commercial and ends up falling in love with her, and Jordan Herrera as Annie's taxi driver friend who is also in love with her but is content to just watch her from a distance.

Also starring are "Star for a Night" grand champion Sarah Geronimo in her first movie, Gloria Romero, Armando Goyena, Ronaldo Valdez, Amy Austria as Annie's mother, Janice de Belen as her sister, Bobby Andrews and Iza Calzado.

"Annie B. (Bida ng Ukay-Ukay, Bongga Siya 'Day)" has a lot of music and dancing. Jolina sings the theme song on the movie's soundtrack album.

The movie is a production of Viva Films, and is directed by Louie Ignacio from a script by RJ Nuevas.

MAGDANGAL. "3 in 1"

Show proof, says PMPC head

From page A26

show them to anyone questioning the results.

"What I don't understand," she said, "is that how come, all of a sudden, these people are interested in what the PMPC is doing when they have not been of help to the organization for many years now."

Each year, the 26 voting members are chosen from among the PMPC's 47 members. The voting members meet to deliberate on each category and to vote through secret balloting a day before the award ceremony, according to Bonifacio.

The president and the voting committee chair lead the deliberations. Nene Riego is the chair of the voting committee this year.

According to Bonifacio, only the PMPC president and the Airtime auditors are present during the counting of ballots. After the votes are tallied, the president and the accountant prepare two copies of the lists of winners, put one copy in an envelop which is then signed and sealed.

"I have the second copy," Bonifacio said. "I kept it so I could write the sequence of the show for Airtime."

Incumbent PMPC secretary Jimi Escala, who is also a member of the voting committee, said he was not surprised to hear people questioning the Star Awards results because "we experience that every year."

"But I think it's unfair to accuse us of tarnishing the image of the organization simply because they did not like the winners," he said. "I'm not in favor of some of the winners, too, but I'm not protesting."

Bonifacio challenged her predecessors to prove that the voting committee was wrong in picking John Estrada as the best drama actor this year.

Estrada beat veteran actor Eddie Garcia ("Kung Mawawala Ka") and five other nominees for his work on "Kaytagal Kitang Hinintay."

"Have they been watching television lately?" Bonifacio asked. "Because if they were, they would have seen how effective John Estrada is as an actor compared with *Tito* Eddie, who admitted to us during an interview that he himself was confused about the character he is playing."

Bonifacio also found it unfair that some people question the victory of "The Correspondents" over "The Probe Team," which has won eight best magazine show trophies from the PMPC.

"If these people were only watching TV, then they would know that Ed Lingao was one of the first Filipino reporters to cover the US-Iraq war in Baghdad," Bonifacio said.

Lingao, Karen Davila, Abner Mercado, and others on "The Correspondents" beat Cheche Lazaro and company of "The Probe Team" to win the best magazine show host award.

Escala also denied the allegation that some of the PMPC officials were paid off to vote for particular nominees.

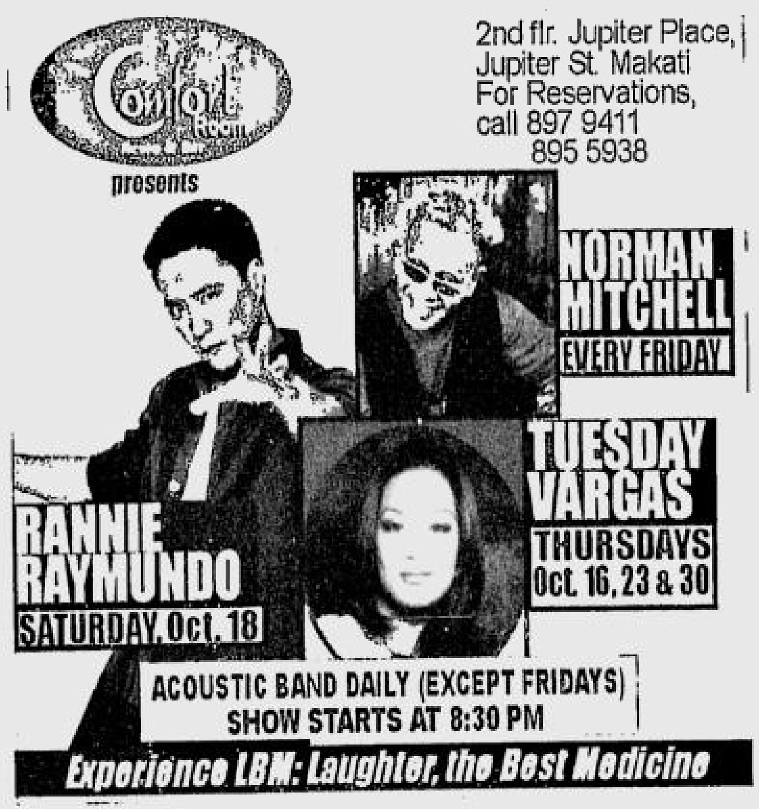
"If there had been pay-offs, we did not receive any, not even 25 cents," he said.

Bonifacio admitted that she had heard comments about the alleged pay-offs on the night of the pageant but she chose to ignore them. She said it was difficult to prove that pay-offs had been made and impossible to identify who among the voting members had been paid to vote for particular nominees.

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino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Show proof, says PMPC head

'Have they been watching TV lately?'

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE PRESIDENT of the Philippine Movie Press Club (PMPC), a group of show biz writers which gave out the Star Awards for TV last Saturday, yesterday dared her predecessors to show evidence of irregularities in the selection of the winners.

"What these people are saying are merely speculations," Bonifacio told Inquirer Entertainment yesterday. "How could they say that? They were not with us from day 1."

Bonifacio was reacting to statements by three former PMPC presidents who noted "glaring disparities" in the list of winners and to allegations of "pay-offs" to PMPC officials.

Bonifacio said she is even willing to face an inquiry to prove that "these people are merely out to discredit me."

One of the former PMPC presidents, Ernie Pecho, had claimed he heard of last-minute changes in the list of winners Saturday night.

Pecho said there should be an investigation of the awards process to be spearheaded by former presidents of the organization.

Bonifacio said she is willing to show Pecho as well as his fellow former PMPC presidents Veronica Samio and Billy Balbastro a sealed envelope that contained the list of winners. She said two auditors from Airtime Marketing, the producer of the awards show, had signed the envelope.

Bonifacio said she had kept the ballots cast by the 26 voting members and she is willing to

SHOW/ A25

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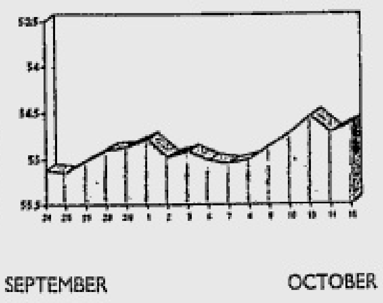

GRAPHS BY LUI VILLARICO

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STOCK MARKET

Profit-taking drives stocks lower

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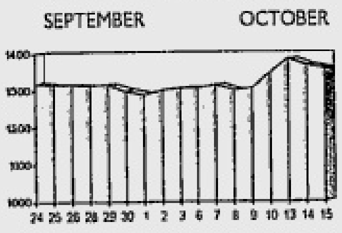

(See stock market report on Page B4)

STOCKS pulled back yesterday on fresh profit-taking in telecom blue chips Globe Telecom and PLDT following a recent rally, analysts said.

Globe Telecom dropped 2.58 percent or P20 amid speculation on Deutsche Telekom AG's renewed proposal to sell its stake in Globe to its two other co-investors—Ayala Corp. and Singapore Telecommunications.

PLDT fell 2.13 percent or P15 to P690 as investors tracked an overnight decline by 6.57 percent to $12.52 in PLDT ADR, which is traded in New York.

"The market gained 85.89 points for three straight days earlier and we have problems in politics, budget deficit, and economic outlook so that raises the question why," said AB Capital economic analyst Jose Vistan. "The market needed a correction."

The main index dropped 8.97 points or 0.66 percent to 1,356.15 points. The market is up 33.16 percent so far this year.

Turnover eased to 492.94 million pesos from 760.56 million pesos previously.

Reuters

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MACAPAGAL administration has tapped foreign groups HSBC, Morgan Stanley and UBS Warburg to underwrite as much as $500 million in 10-year global bonds with target issue date of not later than next week.

The proceeds of the bond issue will cover the remaining $225-million foreign financing program this year and partially address next year's $1.8-billion requirement.

The three investment banks were given the mandate two days after the Department of Finance issued a request for proposals from underwriters.

The new sovereign deal is the second for HSBC and Morgan Stanley this year and the first for UBS Warburg, which was penalized by the government early this year after it released a study in January about the deteriorating condition of the government's external payments position.

The ban on UBS, according to a source, had been lifted. The UBS study raised the cost of the government's bond issue in January.

The new bond issue will be submitted for the approval of the policy-making Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas today.

A source said the government indicated a minimum volume of $250 million but underwriters were comfortable in committing to at least $500 million.

"The government can choose to upsize the bond float if there is strong appetite. In that way, it can already raise part of its requirements for 2004," the source said. Borrowing during an election year could be more expensive.

The Philippines will tap the 2014 bond market for the third time this year. It raised $500 -million in January and $750 million in July from this global bond facility. In both instances, the bond floats were oversubscribed. The July bond issue carried a spread of 4.61 points over benchmark US treasuries. The spread reflected the premium that investors required in relation to potential risks.

For risk-averse investors, Philippines bonds are not exactly the wisest buy after the country suffered two successive rating downgrades in the second quarter, from Standard & Poor's and from Fitch Ratings.

But spreads on Philippine bonds provide investors a reasonable return compared to safer placements.

For 2004, the cash-strapped National Power Corp. has set an external borrowing program of $1.2 billion, bringing to $3 billion the combined requirement with the national government.

Ayala, SingTel acquire German's stake in Globe

AYALA Corp. and Singapore Telecommunications Ltd. yesterday announced their acquisition of Deutsche Telekom AG's stake in Globe Telecom Inc.

SingTel and Ayala had been offered all of Deutsche Telekom's quarter stake in Globe.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Ayala said it had accepted the offer from DeTeAsia Holding GmbH to purchase 16.04 million common shares of Globe also at P680 each.

Ayala said it has advised Deutsche Telekom that it reserved its option to designate Globe or any of its affiliates to purchase part of its acquired shares prior to the execution of the share purchase agreement.

SingTel, Southeast Asia's largest telecoms provider, said it bought 21.64 million Globe shares at P680 per share, 10 percent below the stock's closing price yesterday.

Debt-strapped Deutsche Telekom earlier submitted a new offer to entice Ayala SingTel two months after the first round of negotiations bogged down.

Compared with its previous all-or-nothing position, Deutsche Telekom was open to selling only a portion of its stake to Ayala and SingTel, making it easier to hammer out a deal.

The INQUIRER earlier reported that Ayala and Singtel had made a counter-offer to buy only 20 percent out of Deutsche Bank's 24.8 percent in Globe. As Ayala and SingTel own 32.7 percent and 29.1 percent of Globe, respectively, the shares they offered to buy would allow them to raise their interest to 42.7 percent and 39.1 percent.

"The block itself is very difficult to sell, but if Deutsche Telekom sells only a portion of it, the rest will probably go to the open market, and this will benefit Globe because it will increase liquidity," said Jomar Lacson, an analyst at independent think-tank TeamResearch.

"But the fact that they offered it again to Ayala and SingTel does not mean that they have given up the possibility of selling to other investors. They may still be talking to others, but under the right of first offer, they have to offer the same terms to its existing partners first," Lacson said.

Deutsche Telekom's stake in Globe is held by DeTeAsia. Of the total stake held by the German firm, 12 percent is held directly in the form of common shares while the balance is owned via Asiacom—a joint venture that is 60-percent owned by Ayala, 20 percent by SingTel, and 20 percent by the German firm.

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Bangko Sentral sees '04 BOP surplus hitting $1.7B

By Clarissa S. Batino

A ROSY export scenario for next year has prompted the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to adjust its balance-of-payments target in 2004 to a surplus of $1.7 billion from the original target of $1.2 billion.

At the same time, the BSP reduced to $1.1 billion its current account surplus target from about $2 billion.

BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the new targets for 2004 were computed using a bullish 10-percent export growth and 11 percent import growth targets.

The current account and BOP targets are important in drawing up the BSP's defense of the peso. A declining dollar inflow puts pressure on the country's external reserves and adversely affects the peso.

This year, the central bank had estimated that the BOP would hit a deficit of $1.13 billion and the current account surplus would drop to $1.7 billion from an original target of $2.4 billion after recasting to 3 percent the government's export growth target for the year.

"But we are keeping the revised targets for BOP and current account this year after exporters assured us that a 3-percent export growth this year is achievable," said the central bank official.

Exporters said they could still meet a 5-percent growth, the original target for the year, if exports of electronics and semiconductors would recover from a slump. These two product groups account for 60 percent of the country's total export receipts.

The central bank met with an exporters group last Monday to determine whether the BSP's 3-percent export growth target was realistic.

BSP Managing Director for research Diwa Guinigundo said the 10-percent export growth forecast for next year was even conservative.

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Like the back of my hind

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

THEY are fighting over the plum GSIS, and it does not look good for this cute administration of Gloriaetta at this time.

This late in this cute administration, with barely eight months to go, the hangers-on are behaving like it's their last chance to get a piece of the action.

Maybe they know something that we don't, that perhaps it is the last year of this cute administration.

Such is not possible at all, as far as I can tell, at least not if the Comelec counting machines can be made to do anything about it. Oops!

* * *

REPORTS, anyway, persist that some groups are going after the position of GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia.

Supposedly, Gloriaetta called, is calling, or will call—depending on the bias of the radio station—Garcia himself to a meeting at Malacañang.

It is said that Gloriaetta intends to fire out Garcia. Certain names of course are already coming up for his replacement.

And you can only wonder if they have anything to do with the uniformity of the radio reports in the first place.

***

IT has all the elements of the campaign which ousted Nanny Nañagas from the SSS at the start of this cute administration. You know - mob rule!

The oust-Garcia-movement must naturally hype up the financial standings of the fund, insinuating that things are looking bad for its millions of members.

Paid ads of the GSIS already showed that it was all precisely just that—HYPE. It is not as if the GSIS squandered away the money.

If the GSIS has a problem, it is the government itself. Some of its agencies do not remit to the GSIS the money they already collected from members.

* * *

AND so a check with Malacañang showed that, based on the presidential schedule, Gloriaetta had no meeting with Garcia.

The GSIS itself nevertheless is scheduled to give a short presentation to the Neda board which Gloriaetta chairs.

But word from close-ins of Gloriaetta has it that, after the presentation, Garcia is not going anywhere except perhaps back to his office at the GSIS building.

Based on the script, Garcia will offer to resign, but Gloriaetta is not going to accept his resignation. Who said this cute administration has no mind for the dramatics?

* * *

FOR whatever they say about Gloriaetta, whether it is about her size or the size of her husband, she knows politics like the back of her dainty hand.

Garcia is not without political clout. He comes from an influential clan in Cebu. In fact, he represents the Promdi party of Lito Osmeña in this cute administration.

Now that Gloriaetta already declared she is running in 2004 after all, she needs the backing of Garcia's group in Cebu more than ever.

Bear in mind that, in the last senatorial elections, Cebu is one of only two provinces which delivered to Gloriaetta a sweep for her slate. That kind of clout!

***

NEEDING such a crucial block in 2004 are not just the senatorial candidates endorsed by Gloriaetta but Gloriaetta herself. To begin with, her approval rating is not that great.

Besides, what is this fight over the GSIS all about—the salary of the GM? Don't tell me the "candidates," all big shots in their fields, have come down to that!

It is about some big bucks. Up for renewal by the end of this year are the re-insurance coverage of the GSIS for Napocor's assets. The brokers who place the re-insurance abroad, from what I heard, normally pays handsome commission. By "normally," I mean it's part of the deal.

***

WE have no way of knowing if, in the Al-Ghozi case, the police force is not telling us the truth. But then again, we have no way of knowing if they actually are.

Normally, we just take the word of the authorities at its face value. Normally! These seem to be abnormal times. Some people doubt the word of the police.

Now Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi was a dreaded terrorist. Down here in our barangay, they think that the world is better off now that he has joined the Creator.

Still, some people doubt the timing of his supposed killing in an "encounter." They say it helps this cute administration in managing the news. Hints of spin again!

***

JUST when Sen. Panfilo Lacson delivers another privilege speech, this time linking Gloriaetta herself to misuse of government funds, along comes the Al-Ghozi story.

It is also not bad for this cute administration that a feared terrorist who escaped from prison is killed just when Pareng Dubious is about to come here for a visit.

Already, the stock market is showing a little sign that it is still alive. Stock prices are at their 18-month high. Is that great or what?

You can kiss the little back of my hind if you want, but that is nowhere near great. The market's volume still does not speak well of this country.

In Thailand, the volume is equivalent to P30 billion a day. In Indonesia, it's P10 billion. In Manila, we post only P1 billion, half of which is prearranged.

* * *

IN business, nevertheless, not just a few think that the visit of Pareng Dubious for a few hours may do good for the business image of the Philippines abroad.

Pareng Dubious may only spend enough time here for a plate of *pancit luglog*, plus a little push and shove for US interest, but to business, it is good enough.

At least the visit can tell the rest of the world that this country, after all, can still show hospitality to some bigshot who is about to bully us.

For despite the little excitement which the visit can create in business, some sectors fear that, to please the visitor, this cute administration will give him anything.

* * *

MAKE no mistake, the US is exerting pressure on countries which opposed the one-sided trade liberalization, as espoused by the US in the recent WTO talks in Mexico.

The Philippines took the "anti" side, together with other poor countries which are going to suffer the unfair practices of the rich countries such as subsidies.

Now Washington already succeeded in convincing five Latin American countries to change their minds. It is a complete turn around from their position in Mexico.

In business, some groups think that this cute administration is already poised also to take the US "advice." In return for what? An endorsement?

Congress urged to approve 3 key economic bills this year

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE CAPITAL Market Development Council, a public-private sector partnership formed to speed up the development of the country's debt and equity markets, yesterday sought the passage of at least three out of eight key economic bills as a "Christmas present" from Congress.

CMDC, consisting of representatives from the Department of Finance, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Securities and Exchange Commission, Insurance Commission, Philippine Stock Exchange and various financial industry groups, has endorsed to Congress the bills on securitization, documentary stamps tax, value-added tax, Personal Equity Requirement Account, the preneed plan code, the investment company code, corporate recovery and amendments to the Securities Regulation Code.

In a press briefing yesterday, CMDC officials said they were hoping Congress would act swiftly on the bills that were in the most advanced stage now, specifically those on securitization, DST and VAT.

CMDC chair Chit Manabat said that the group's aim was to "move the financial system forward" and pave the way for the offering of a wide array of product lines to meet diverse financing needs efficiently.

The DST bill seeks to amend and rationalize documentary stamp taxes on the original issue and on the secondary sale of debt and equity securities.

In its present form in the Senate, the bill proposes to decrease the DST on the original issue of equity securities from P2.00 to P1.00 for every P200 of par value. The CMDC, however, has expressed its reservations on the provision of the bill increasing the DST on the original issue of debt securities to P1.00 from P.30 for every P200 based on the issue price of the debt securities as this could negate the efforts of the government to mobilize funds at lower costs.

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STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(Head Office and Branches)
As of SEPTEMBER 19, 2003

ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Items		₱ 1,069,358,237
Due from Bangko Sentral		2,926,522,293
Due from Other Banks		2,094,423,028
Interbank Loans Receivable		9,491,245,249
Trading Accounts Securities (Net)		17,817,867,276
Investments in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)		26,294,126,674
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)		33,731,249,758
Equity Investments (Net)		180,826,735
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (Net)		2,965,780,204
Other Assets (Net):		
Property Owned/Acquired		4,381,993,764
Others		4,573,833,169
TOTAL ASSETS		₱ 105,529,226,385
LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		
LIABILITIES		
Demand Deposits		₱ 9,667,962,747
Savings Deposits		19,294,976,193
Time Deposits		44,826,634,588
Special/Other Deposits		54,826,375
Due to Bangko Sentral		23,374,126
Due to Banks		882,381
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		726,525,133
Bills Payable		8,767,177,258
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits		837,252,274
Other Liabilities		4,169,359,324
Unsecured Subordinated Debt (Inclusive of Unamortized Premium/Discount)		0.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES		₱ 88,370,970,379
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		
Capital Stock		₱ 3,045,267,600
Surplus		11,931,619,745
Surplus Reserves		298,565,357
Other Capital Accounts		1,882,803,304
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		₱ 17,158,256,006
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		₱ 105,529,226,385
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit		₱ 1,616,339,449
Bills for Collection		326,078,331
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		274,770,000
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		12,880,054,000
Assets Held Under Trust and Investment Management Agreements		30,517,785,936
Invested In:		
Government Securities	₱18,648,483,199	
Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Shares of Stock	1,127,992,609	
Loans and Discounts	2,055,769,607	
Other Assets	8,685,540,521	
Accountabilities:		
Trust and Other Fiduciary	25,226,960,091	
Common Trust Funds	2,256,164,598	
Investment/Fund Management	3,034,861,247	
Unearned Income & Other Accountabilities	0	
Other contingent accounts		2,269,155,927
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		₱ 47,884,183,643

OTHER INFORMATION:

1. Deposits of:		
A) Government		₱ 215,967,490
B) Banks		184,322,595
C) Trust department		20,297,477
2. Compliance with Magna Carta Law:		
Prescribed Ratio of Compliance	*6% For Small Ent.*	*2% For Medium Ent.*
Actual Compliance	201%	722%
3. Amount of non-performing loans		8,972,914,699
4. Ratio of non-performing loans to total loan portfolio		15.42%
5. Amount of classified loans and other risk assets		13,125,265,716
6. General provision for loan losses		2,661,389,232
7. Specific provision for loan losses		3,849,704,945
8. Return on Equity		21.39%
9. DOSRI loans/advances		2,769,017,751
10. Ratio to total loan portfolio		5.28%
11. Past due DOSRI loans/advances		66,909,856
12. Ratio to total loan portfolio		0.18%

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES } S. S.
CITY OF MAKATI

We, PETER S. DEE and RICARDO R. CHUA, of the above mentioned Bank, do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

(Sgd.) PETER S. DEE
President

(Sgd.) RICARDO R. CHUA
Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME this Oct. 10, 2003, affiants exhibiting to me their Residence Certificate No. 12419550 issued at Manila on January 14, 2003 and Residence Certificate No. 14426818 issued at Makati on February 12, 2003, respectively.

Doc. No. 391
Page No. 80
Book No. 15
Series of 2003

(Sgd.) NOLAN C. CASIDING
Notary Public
Until December 31, 2003
PTR No. 7626265 Makati 1-8-03
TIN 125-400-832

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(Bank and Financial Subsidiaries)
As of SEPTEMBER 19, 2003

ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Items		₱ 1,071,170,938
Due from Bangko Sentral		2,926,522,293
Due from Other Banks		2,094,423,026
Interbank Loans Receivable		9,491,245,249
Trading Accounts Securities (Net)		17,817,867,276
Investments in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)		26,381,355,315
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)		33,731,249,758
Equity Investments (Net)		129,326,735
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (Net)		2,966,579,995
Other Assets (Net):		
Property Owned/Acquired		4,381,993,764
Others		4,608,092,566
TOTAL ASSETS		₱ 105,601,826,915
LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		
LIABILITIES		
Demand Deposits		₱ 9,667,962,747
Savings Deposits		19,294,976,193
Time Deposits		44,826,634,588
Special/Other Deposits		54,826,375
Due to Bangko Sentral		23,374,126
Due to Banks		882,381
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		728,525,133
Bills Payable		8,767,177,258
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits		875,219,144
Other Liabilities		4,203,902,984
Unsecured Subordinated Debt (Inclusive of Unamortized Premium/Discount		0.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES		₱ 88,443,570,909
Minority Interest in Subsidiary		₱ 0
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		
Capital Stock		₱ 3,045,267,600
Surplus		11,931,619,745
Surplus Reserves		298,565,357
Other Capital Accounts		1,882,803,304
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		₱ 17,158,256,006
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		₱ 105,601,826,915
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OTHER INFORMATION:

1. Deposits of:	
A) Government	₱ 215,967,490
B) Banks	184,322,595
C) Trust Department	20,297,477

2. List of Bank's Financial Subsidiaries
A) CBC FOREX CORPORATION
B) CBC INSURANCE BROKERS, INC.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES } S. S.
CITY OF MAKATI

We, PETER S. DEE and RICARDO R. CHUA, of the above mentioned Bank, do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

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Notary Public
Until December 31, 2003
PTR No. 7626265 Makati 1-8-03
TIN 125-400-832

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Gov't to help in Meralco refund plan

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy is mediating between Manila Electric Co. and its big customers to determine how the latter could refund some P18.6 billion in excess billings as ordered by the court.

In an interview yesterday, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said President Macapagal-Arroyo had ordered him to start talks between the two parties to find a reasonable means for the rebate.

"It seems the bulk consumers are becoming a bit impatient and they want to know how they can get their money back," Perez said.

The official added that the refund to industrial and commercial customers was "considerable," and that while Meralco should be made to answer for this, the means should be reasonable both for customers and the utility.

Earlier this month, Meralco president Jesus Francisco said the company was looking at the possibility of issuing financial instruments to pay for refunds to bulk users.

Francisco said this was one of several options that Meralco was considering with regard to the settlement of the fourth and final phase of a P30-billion refund.

But he clarified that no decision has been made and that any such step would entail coordination with and approval from regulators.

The Energy Regulatory Commission had given the distribution giant until Nov. 17 to submit its proposal on how to conduct the third and fourth phases of the refund.

Francisco had said that debt papers could help make refunds to big users as fast as possible while ensuring that the firm remained financially viable.

Also yesterday, Perez said the government had deployed rolling stores to select Meralco branches to help cash claimants get the most out of their money.

"When the President visited the Novaliches branch last Monday, she saw the need for small Meralco customers to have an immediate source of low-priced basic goods like rice and medicine," Perez said.

Meralco records showed that 30 percent of residential refund claimants wanted cash rather than credit to future bills.

ADB to aid RP tap new sources of potable water

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE ASIAN Development Bank will provide a technical assistance loan to the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) to tap new water sources for the increasing demand of Metro Manila's 10 million residents.

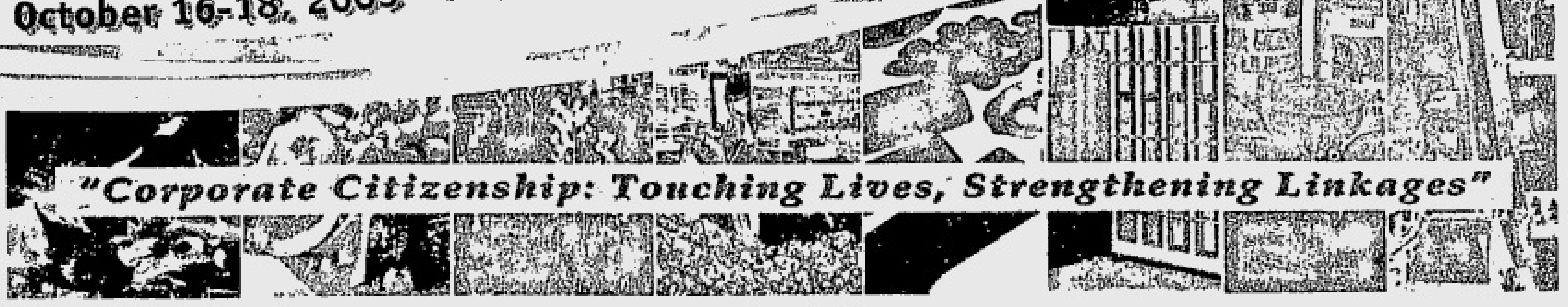
According to ADB urban development specialist Rudolf Frauendorfer, the technical loan assistance project worth P183 million will help prepare feasibility studies and provide advice on legal and financial issues for new water source development.

"It also aims to conduct training to improve the financial management of MWSS and promote better accounting and fiscal control," Frauendorfer said.

MWSS has already identified three potential water source projects to be studied with the technical loan assistance. These include:

- the Wawa River Project, which would refurbish a dam and restore the infrastructure to make it a viable resource by removing silt from the reservoir and constructing a new transmission pipeline and water treatment plant;
- the Laiban Dam Project, which has been identified since 1979 as capable of delivering high quality water to Metro Manila, and
- the Angat Water Utilization and Aqueduct Improvement Project, which will improve the main water source for Metro Manila, accounting for 97 percent of the city's water supply.

MWSS Administrator Orlando Hondrade said in a separate interview that these projects would address the impending water shortage by 2008.



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PROGRAM OF SEMINARS/COOKING DEMONSTRATIONS

DAY 1 - OCTOBER 16, 2003 - THURSDAY

SEMINARS (Venue: West Wing Pavilion, WTCMM)
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
• Ammonium Nitrate Water Solution for Mangoes by: Inca Plastics Phils., Inc. (Seminar Rm. 1)
3:30 pm - 5:30 pm
• Presentation on the Growout Culture of Pampano (Trachinotus Blochii) and Mangrove Jack (Lutjanus Argentimaculatus) by: Santeh Feeds Corp. (Seminar Rm. 1)
• Cost-Reducing Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Technologies in Vegetable Production by: Integrated Pest Management Collaborative Research Support Program (IPM CRSP) (Seminar Rm. 2)

COOKING DEMONSTRATION (Venue: Hall A WTCMM)
2:00 pm - 3:30 pm Roasted Organic Chicken by: Eva Rose Pua - Delifresh
3:30 pm - 5:00 pm by: PhilFoodex

DAY 2 - OCTOBER 17, 2003 - FRIDAY

SEMINARS (Venue: West Wing Pavilion, WTCMM)
10:30 am - 5:30 pm
• Capability Enhancement Seminar on SME Processors (1. DTI's Support to the Capability Enhancement of the SME Food Processors to be Globally Competitive 2. An Overview of the US Bio Terrorism Act 3. Requirements & Regulations Needed by the Food Processors 4. Good Food Processing Practices 5. Sanitation Standard Operating Procedures 6. Introduction to Hazard Analysis & Critical Control Points 7. Food & Packaging Trends) by: Department of Trade and Industry (Seminar Rm. 1)
10:30 am - 12:30 pm
• Why Liquid Feeding Will Work for You? WONDERing on How to Eliminate Odors? Go Organic! by: The Infarmco Group (Seminar Rm. 2)
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
• Using Alpha-Galacosidase Enzymes for Corn-Soya Diets/Plant Extracts as Natural Feed Additive in Animal Health and Production by: Philchema (Seminar Rm. 2)

COOKING DEMONSTRATION (Venue: Hall A, WTCMM)
11:00 am - 12:30 pm Honeybee Production by: Technology & Livelihood Resource Center
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm by Tefal
2:30 pm - 4:00 pm Business in Meat Processing - Ham Making (Chicken & Pork)/ Embutido by: Ms. Lulu Rivera, Spices & Food Mix House
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm Cooking with Herbs by: Bert Clemena - Herbs Society (OPTA)

DAY 3 - OCTOBER 18, 2003 - SATURDAY

SEMINARS (Venue: West Wing Pavilion, WTCMM)
10:30 am - 12:30 pm
• Enhancing Piglet Performance with Ready to Use Antibodies / Protected n-3 Polyunsaturated Fatty Acids in Fertilium™ Improves Litter Size in Sows by: Agrispecialist, Inc. (Seminar Rm. 1)
• Food Safety of Genetically Modified Corn and Soybean in the Philippines by: Monsanto Philippines, Inc. (Seminar Rm. 2)
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
• Lifetime Income Through Mango Farming by: Good Harvest Orchards Marketing Corp. (Seminar Rm. 1)
• Go Organic: It can Mean Your Life! (1. Organic Rice Farming 2. Organic Vegetables/ Salad Greens Cultivation 3. Village Level Sasso Free Range Chicken Growing) by: Organic Producers Trade Association (Seminar Rm. 2)

COOKING DEMONSTRATION (Venue: Hall A, WTCMM)
9:30 am - 11:00 am Ornamental Plants Production & Landscaping by: Technology & Livelihood Resource Center
11:00 am - 12:30 pm Meat Specialties for Business (Siomai, Korean BBQ, Roast Chicken, Skinless Longanisa) by: Ms. Lulu Rivera, Spicies and Food Mix House
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm Organic Vegetable Power by: Shai Tamayo - My Goodness (OPTA)

EXHIBITORS' LIST (as of October 8, 2003)

INDOOR: ACMC (England) Ltd. • Abellar Eqpt. • Aboitiz Transport Grp. • Agrimate, Inc. • Agrispecialist, Inc. • Al-Wassel Irrigation System • Alatone Plastics, Inc. • Alminco Agro Dev't. Corp. • Amanatosan Trdng., Inc. • Ariela Mktng. • Art, Inc. • Asia Giant Ent. • Atlanta Inds., Inc. • Austrian Embassy • B.C. Lopez Antiques • Belmont • Biomin Lab. Singapore Pte. Ltd. • British Embassy Manila • Bureau of Animal Ind. • Bureau of Plant & Ind. • CEFN Phils. • Cargill Phils. • Chia Tung Phils., Inc. • Cledacor Ent. • Cobb Vantress Phils. • Console Farms • Dep't. of Agrarian Reform • Diconex (Phils.), Inc. • EasyBio Phils. • Embassy of Sri Lanka • Feedmix Specialist • First Phil. Scale • Fly Ace Corp. • France Hybrides • GCH Int'l. Mercantile • General Agri Food Int'l. • General Milling Corp. • Good Harvest Orchards Mktg. Corp. • Grains Handlers Phils. • H-Star Enterprises • Hybro B.V. • Hypor Phils., Inc. • Inca Plastics • Infarmco Group of Cos. • Interheat, Inc. • Israel Embassy • Jeida Farm Supply Corp. • Jiangsu Muyang • K & R Chemical Inds. • L.A. Agro-Industrial Technik Ent. • Land Bank of the Phils. • Lexber Holiday Int'l. • Livestock Dev't. Council • MIK Phils., Inc. • MPP Group Hongkong, Inc. • Magco, Inc. • Manila Bulletin • Marid Agribusiness Digest • Maysan Casting Corp. • Millhaven Mercantile Corp. • Mingley Trades & Imports Co. • Monsanto Phils., Inc. • Mr. Donut • National Dairy Authority • National Meat Inspection Commission • Natural Phosphate Fertilizer • Netafim Phils. • New Tatson Weighing Eqpt. • NOGROCOMA • Northern Food Corp./The Livelihood Corp. • Nuevo Millenio • P & J Agricultural Trdng. • PAMPI • PHTRC/UPLB • PWG Genetics Korea Ltd. • Petersime N.V. /7L Agri Food Systems Ent. • Pfizer Animal Health • Philchema, Inc. • Phil. Assoc. of Sugar Refiners • Phil. Carabao Center • Phil. Insulation Co., Inc. • Phil. Online • Phil. Sugar Millers Assoc., Inc. • Philmalay Poultry Breeders • PhilRice • Provet-Uniblo (Phils.), Inc. • Purina • QUEDANCOR • ROP Potato Cuddler • Royal Vet Ent. • Sagrex Corp. • Salmet • San Miguel Foods Inc. • Sanko Plastics • Santeh Feeds • Sarimanok Feeds • Schippers Phils., Inc. • Shenzhen Starway Ent. • Sime Darby Inds., Inc. • Sparkler Far East Ltd. • Stolz Sequipag-France • Swine Board/Corn Board • Syngenta Phils., Inc. • Tefal-Rustan Mktg. Corp. • Towers Thompson (Australia) • Tyson Agro Ventures • United Vinyl Corp. • Univet Agricultural Prods. • Vantage Consulting & Solutions, Inc. • Vemaval • Vitarich Corp. • US PAVILION: Ag World, Inc. • The GSI Asia Group • US Dry Pea • United States Com'l. Service • United States Dept. of Agriculture • Waltrade Int'l. • OUTDOOR: A.P. Inocencio Farms (Teresa Farms) • Bumnong Co. Ltd. • Hydroponics Agri. Dev't. Corp. • Infarmco Group of Cos. • Leemasters Int'l. • PIC Phils., Inc. • Surico, Inc. • Topigs Phils., Inc. • RETAIL: Agri-Aqua Network Int'l. • Binondo Media Publications • Carm Food Ent. • Crisantimum • DA Regional Office • East-West Seeds • Farm Hand Roger Mfg. • Filipinas Agri Planters Supply, Inc. • G.O. Eng'g. • Gaden Enterprise • Green 2000 Garden Cntr. • Halcyon AA Agrix Int'l. Co. • Harbest Agribusiness • Hoobee Packaging Corp. • Isaro Ent. • King Louis • Lorenzana Food Corp. • Mabuhay Orchids Corp. • Metro Bacolod Chamber of Commerce & Ind. • Omar H. Yapchiongco Ent. • Pangalatok's Deli • Pharma Care Prod. • Ramgo Int'l. Corp. • Sunrise Holiday Concepts • TLRC • Tang-cor Eng'g. • Titan Barong • Tryco Pharma Corp./Xylena Farms, Inc. Xan B's Express/Agrill-Able • OPTA Pavilion: Exquisite Focus Phils. • Ever Rich Farms • Galactic Resources Dev't. Corp. • Geo Farm • Gourmet Farms • Hairback Ind./Wagas Herbal Soap • Herbana Farms • Natural Wonders Unlimited • Sagana 100 Phils. • Sunblest Food & Bev. • PHILFOODEX Pavilion: Alsons Aqua • Bantayan Mktg./Kookai's Delicacies • Carica Herbal • ChiChiz Ent./Ilocos Food Prods. • Dalisay Sweets • Dealo Inds. • Fenor Food Prods./Nutridel Foods • Ilongo's Best • Mega Fishing Corp. • Navarro's Food/Pick Fresh • RPM Pili Nut • See's Int'l. • Toscano Trading/Merjories Best Delights

CO-ORGANIZERS:
Bureau of Animal Industry • Chamber of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources • Cooperative Dev't. Authority • Distribution Management Assoc. of the Phils. • Federation of Cutflowers & Ornamental Plant Growers Assoc. of the Phils. • Flower Club Phils. • Integrated Food Manufacturing Assoc. of the Phils. for Productivity • Livestock Dev't. Council • National Federation of Hog Farmers, Inc. • National Onion Growers Cooperative Marketing Assoc. • Organic Producers Trade Assoc. • Philippine Amalgamated Supermarkets Assoc. • Philippine Assoc. of Hog Raisers, Inc. • Philippine Assoc. of Meat Processors, Inc. • Philippine Chamber of Agriculture & Food • Philippine Chamber of Food Manufacturers, Inc. • Philippine Coconut Authority • Philippine Crop Insurance Corp. • Philippine Food Processors & Exporters Organization • Philippine Orchard & Fruit Farmers Assoc. • Philippine Rice Research Institute • Philippine Society of Animal Science • Philippine Sugar Millers Assoc. • Philippine Swine Producers Assoc. • Philippine Veterinary Medical Assoc. • Postharvest Horticulture Training & Research Center/UPLB • Technology & Livelihood Resource Center • Tuna Canners Assoc. of the Phils. • United Broiler Raisers Assoc.

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Napocor insurance bidding set

By Ronnel W. Domingo

AN INTER-AGENCY bidding committee said it was bidding out on Nov. 24 National Power Corp.'s industrial all-risks insurance policy with an indicative budget of between $12 million and $14.7 million.

In a notice to reinsurance companies and brokers, the joint committee of the Department of Finance, Napocor and the Government Service Insurance System said the policy would cover one year starting 12 noon of Jan. 31, 2004.

Eligibility documents will be issued today up to 5 p.m. today, while bidding documents will be issued to qualified bidders on Oct. 4.

A pre-bidding conference will be held on Nov. 7 and the bids containing financial and technical proposals will be opened on Nov. 24.

The committee said applying foreign reinsurers or brokers with foreign lead reinsurers must have a credit rating of at least "A" from Standard and Poor's as of June 2003.

Foreign applicants must also certify that they would provide a lead line of at least a fifth of the reinsured risk, it added.

Meantime, local lead reinsurers must have a net worth of at least P2 billion as of December 2002.

Winning bidders will cover 30 percent of the risks as committee officials earlier said the GSIS was retaining 70 percent of the risks covering about $6 billion worth of assets.

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND BANKING GROUP LIMITED
3rd Flr. Tower One Ayala Triangle, Ayala Avenue, Makati City

STATEMENT OF CONDITION
As of September 19, 2003

ASSETS		Amount
Cash and Cash Items	P	3,402,846.57
Due from Central Bank		387,187,376.74
Due from Other Banks		780,820,166.45
Interbank Loans Receivable		665,000,000.00
Trading Account Securities		
Investments in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)		2,765,300,374.00
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)		2,025,337,600.58
Equity Investments (Net)		2,679,850.00
Due from Head Office/Branches/Agencies Abroad		1,339,696,418.22
Bank Premises, Furnitures, Fixtures & Equipments (Net)		9,329,303.47
Other Assets (Net): Others		224,302,360.88
TOTAL ASSETS	P	8,869,025,458.07

LIABILITIES		
Demand Deposits	P	204,687,464.30
Savings Deposits		2,340,222,201.23
Time Deposits		2,128,040,626.25
Special/Other Deposits		7,387,130.20
Due to Central Bank		4,795,632.01
Due to Head Office/Branches/Agencies Abroad		3,294,084,484.29
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		1,743,276.75
Bills Payable: Interbank Borrowings		82,730,446.32
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits		651,430.97
Other Liabilities		244,087,350.07
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	8,306,275,134.39

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		Amount
Assigned Capital	P	444,323,634.54
Other Capital Accounts		118,426,689.14
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	562,750,323.68
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	8,869,025,458.07

CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	P	1,117,060,659.60
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		1,370,051,166.06
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		1,899,133,318.83
Other Contingent Accounts		1,851,106,360.73
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P	6,237,377,704.22

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION
HEAD OFFICE
As At 30 September 2003
In AUD Millions

Capital	6,314
Surplus	6,161
Profits	2,322
Total Deposits	113,307
Total Resources	183,105

Other Information

1. Deposits of
   a. Government nil
   b. Banks 391,196.90
   c. Trust Department nil
2. Compliance with Magna Carta Law:

Prescribed Ratio	6% Small Ent.	2% Medium Ent.
Actual Compliance	102%	112%

3. Amount of Non-Performing Loans 149,123,381.09
4. Ratio of Non-Performing loans to total loan portfolio 4.26%
5. Amount of classified loans and other risk assets 149,160,322.06
6. General Provision for Loan Losses 130,569,276.15
7. Specific Provision for Loan Losses 74,578,420.76
8. Return on Equity (ROE) - Based on Assigned Capital 27.11%
   Return on Equity (ROE) - Based on Shareholder's Equity 21.32%
   Return on Equity (ROE) - Inclusive of Net Due to HO 5.42%
9. Amount of DOSRI loans/advances 5,810,610.57
10. Ratio of DOSRI loans/adv to total loans/advances 0.18%
11. Amount of Past Due DOSRI loans /advances nil
12. Ratio of Past Due DOSRI loans/adv to total loan portfolio nil
13. "Net Due to Head Office/Branches/Agencies Abroad" forms part of capital of Philippine Branch of foreign bank 1,084,308,020.07

*Amended to conform with Circular No. 200 dated August 17, 1999 and Memorandum to All Banks dated November 29, 1999.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
MAKATI CITY) S.S.

WE, JOHNNY CO and KIM CHAN of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

JOHNNY CO
General Manager and Country Head

KIM CHAN
Chief Operating Officer

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this ___ __________, affiants exhibiting to me their Community Tax Certificate No. 11617400, issued at Makati City, on Feb 21, 2003 and Passport No. E7048740, issued at Jakarta Indonesia, on June 3, 1999.

BENJAMIN MATA
NOTARY PUBLIC
Until Dec. 31, 2003
PTR No. A-341063
Date issued 3 January 2003

Doc. No. 107
Book No. 23
Page No. LXXVI
Series of 03

Bank lending up 3.8%

By Clarissa S. Batino

COMMERCIAL bank lending grew by 3.8 percent as of August to P1.428 trillion from P1.38 trillion a year ago, sustaining the positive trend for the 12th straight month, data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed.

Compared with the previous month's level, however, commercial bank lending slowed down by 0.35 percent from P1.434 trillion. Bank lending suffered months of contraction before posting growth again in September last year.

The central bank does not expect bank lending to pick up substantially during the rest of the year despite low interest rates and sufficient liquidity in the financial system.

The government remained the banks' biggest borrower. Loans to the public sector went up by 15.3 percent. Loans to the private sector improved by 3.2 percent.

The BSP said a 5-percent loan growth for the full year was good enough given a weak demand for credit particularly from the private sector, which continued to experience excess inventory due to soft consumer demand.

BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said monetary authorities would "continue to provide a supportive macroeconomic environment to ensure that the country's economic growth gains a firmer footing" while being mindful of the possible impact of any measure on prices and inflation.

Lending had been dogged by weak demand for credit caused in part by spare capacity and by tight financial conditions that called for a closer management of cash flows instead of pursuing expansion plans.

Four sectors marked a substantial increase in borrowing led by the farm sector, which posted a loan growth of 68.6 percent. The others were community, social and personal services, 14.4 percent; utilities, 7 percent, and the wholesale and retail trade sector, 1.4 percent.

The BSP noted that these sectors accounted for 40 percent of the total bank lending in August.

Despite the low interest rates of the BSP's key policy rates, banks, said sources, continued to charge individuals and small businesses double-digit lending rates. Some banks reasoned out that they had to input "anticipated risks" on their costs.

Metrobank raises tier-2 bond issue size to $200M

STRONG demand for Metrobank's recent tier-2 bond issue and improved yields pressed Metrobank to increase the existing issue by $70 million, bringing the total issue to $200 million.

The 10-year bonds were listed in Singapore and will pay a semi-annual coupon of 8.375 percent. The sub-debt issue was rated at the Philippine sovereign rating of Ba1 by Moody's.

"We decided to increase the issue size to accommodate investors who came in after the closing of the initial tranche," said Metrobank president Antonio Abacan Jr.

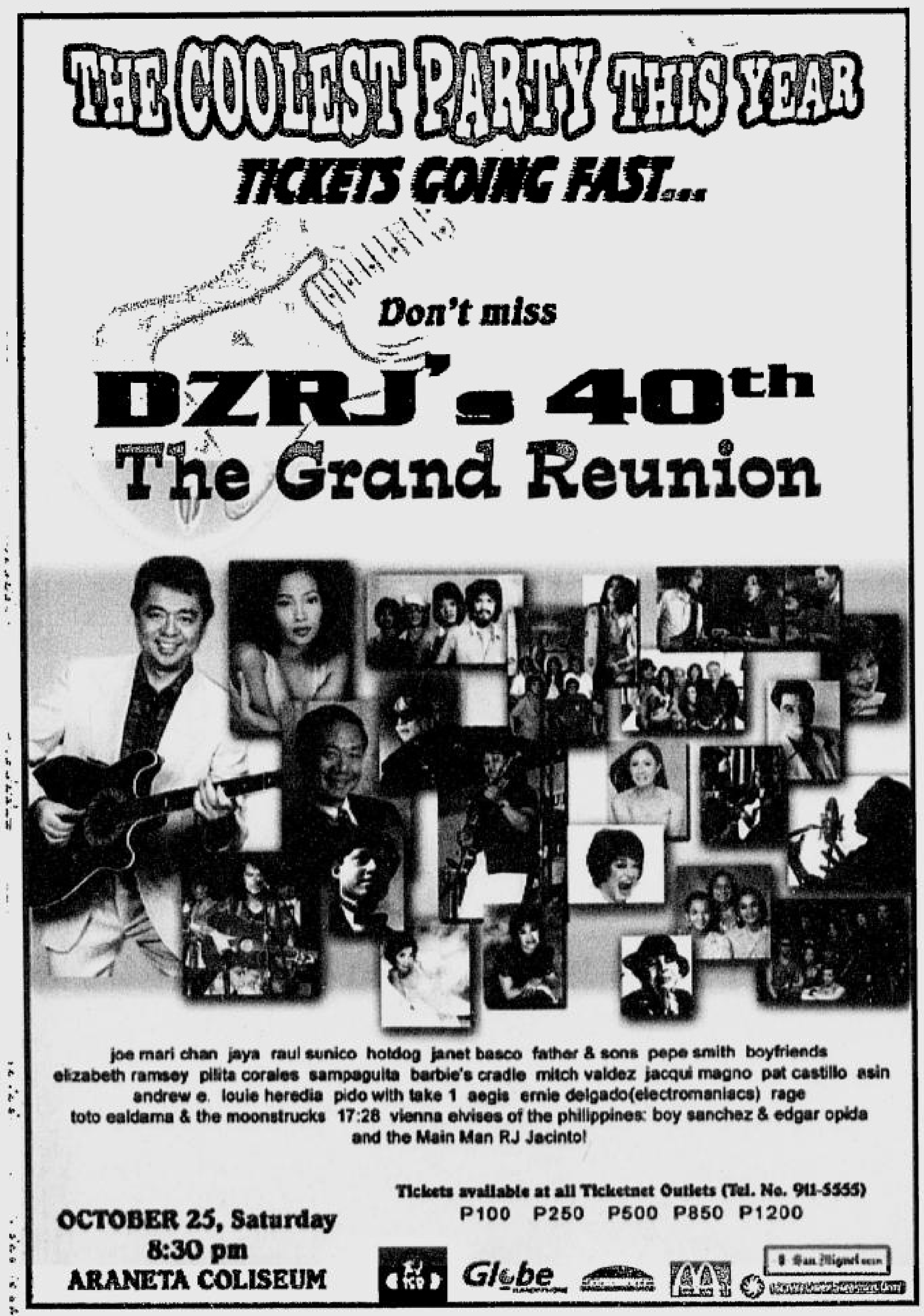
Metrobank had intended to issue only $100 million worth of bonds for refinancing purposes but had decided to raise the amount initially to $130 million and later to $200 million due to overwhelming demand.

The additional $70-million issue was supported by 60 percent of the investors which had participated in the original $130-million tranche. Approximately 80 percent of the demand came from institutional investors off-shore. Allocations were 50 percent to asset managers, 35 percent to private banks and 15 percent to banks. UBS Warburg again acted as the sole bookrunner.

The $70-million "tap," which is callable on the fifth year, was priced at 99.25 percent with a yield of 8.548 percent. This compares favorably at 8 bps inside the initial tranche which was priced at 8.625 percent or 27 bps tighter than the original spread over US Treasuries.

The proceeds will be used to further increase Metrobank's capital base.

Metrobank, the country's largest lender, was the first Philippine bank to issue tier-2 capital bonds in the international capital market in November 2002.



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Globe

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Wednesday, October 15, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.75	17.75	17.5	17.5	18,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	45	45	44.5	44.5	602,200
China Banking Corp.	660	660	660	660	4,300
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	34	34	33.5	33.5	159,800
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.78	0.8	0.78	.79	2,240,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28.5	29	28	28.5	592,700
Philippine National Bank	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	83,700
Phil. Savings Bank	26.5	27	26.5	27	5,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	4,000
Security Bank Corp.	18.25	18.25	18	18.25	53,200
Union Bank of the Phil.	32.5	32.5	32	32	11,900
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	230,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1300	1310	1300	1310	7,700
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	27	28.5	27	27.5	12,600
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.7	0.71	0.7	.71	2,190,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	760	765	750	755	112,990
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.045	0.045	0.045	.045	9,400,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.047	0.047	0.043	.046	19,700,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	92,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.81	0.84	0.81	.84	10,670,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	690	700	685	690	120,870
Ivantage Corp.	0.43	0.44	0.43	.44	110,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	186,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.75	14.75	14.25	14.5	182,600
Manila Electric Co. B	22	22	21.5	21.75	1,075,500
Petron Corp.	2.04	2.04	2.02	2.02	1,505,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.04	2.08	2	2	75,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	50,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.85	2.85	2.8	2.8	259,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	.29	310,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	100,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	100,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.85	0.86	0.85	.86	310,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.15	3.15	3.1	3.1	50,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4	4	4	4	1,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30	30.5	30	30.5	14,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17	17.25	17	17.25	443,000
San Miguel Corp. A	56.5	56.5	56	56.5	49,600
San Miguel Corp. B	62.5	63	62.5	63	379,800
Universal Robina Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.85	4.9	4.85	4.9	1,397,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	440,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.3	640,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.033	0.034	0.032	.032	2,600,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	100,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	25,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	0.33	0.34	0.33	.34	20,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	200,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.62	0.62	0.61	0.62	3,990,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	450,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1	1	1	1	3,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	18.25	18.5	18.25	18.25	458,600
Ionics Inc.	1.66	1.66	1.58	1.58	933,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.06	2.06	2.06	2.06	85,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.08	1.12	1.08	1.1	10,625,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.31	4,770,000
Music Corp.	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.4	590,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.29	1,250,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.12	0.14	0.12	.14	220,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	.32	540,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	600,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	.22	30,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Picop Resources Inc.	0.08	0.0825	0.08	.08	1,700,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	500
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.59	.6	1,360,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	60,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	550,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	12,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	28	29	28	28	482,000
DMCI Holdings Inc- Pref.	775	775	775	775	2,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	3,100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Cc	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,900
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	10,000
Far Eastern University	500	500	500	500	70
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.6	2,801,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	.2	220,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.19	0.2	0.19	.2	3,650,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.245	0.26	0.24	.26	5,940,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.14	1.16	6,020,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	.18	930,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.105	.105	60,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.92	1.92	1.92	1.92	4,000
SM Development Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	2,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.7	6.8	6.7	6.7	13,664,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc.A	0.2	0.2	0.2	.2	50,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0034	0.004	0.0034	0.004	5,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.225	0.225	0.22	.22	3,110,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.27	0.28	0.27	.28	1,130,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	58,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0085	0.0085	0.008	.008	10,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.018	.018	6,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.32	0.32	0.32	.32	10,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.33	0.33	0.33	.33	300,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	.0725	300,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.014	0.014	0.013	.013	7,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	38,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	27,000,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	2,400,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.025	0.025	0.024	.024	500,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	110,000

DISCLOSURES

LEISURE & Resorts World Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 28 with record date on Oct. 29 to determine stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

***

ELECTED directors of Manila Broadcasting Co. were Fred Elizalde, Juan Elizalde, Jose Taruc, Ruperto Nicdao Jr., Eduardo Cordova, Gabriel Villareal, Hadrian Arroyo, Julio Macuja II and George Goduco.

***

INTERPHIL Laboratories Inc. bought 10,000 of its own shares at P1.90 per share.

***

THE LISTING of 40 million common shares and two million redeemable preferred shares of William, Gothong and Aboitiz Inc. were set for Friday, Oct. 17.

***

PHILIPPINE Savings Bank reported a net income of P279.3 million for the first three quarters of the year. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

October 15, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.853169525	1.000000	54.625000
Japan	Yen	0.007836	0.009185	0.501700
United Kingdom	Pound	1.426585	1.672100	91.338500
Hongkong	Dollar	0.110137	0.129091	7.051600
Switzerland	Franc	0.647272	0.758668	41.442200
Canada	Dollar	0.644368	0.755267	41.257600
Singapore	Dollar	0.491599	0.576203	31.475100
Australia	Dollar	0.587057	0.688089	37.586900
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.26317	2.652661	144.901600
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.227512	0.266667	14.566700
Brunei	Dollar	0.490187	0.574548	31.384700
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000102	0.000119	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.021298	0.024963	1.363600
UAE	Dirham	0.232307	0.272287	14.873700
Euro	Euro	1	1.172100	64.026000
Argentina	Peso	0.300942	0.352734	19.268100
Brazil	REAL	0.302007	0.353982	19.336300
Denmark	Kroner	0.134688	0.157868	8.623500
India	Rupee	0.01869	0.021906	1.196600
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.224548	0.263193	14.376900
Mexico	New Peso	0.076145	0.089250	4.875300
New Zealand	Dollar	0.507627	0.594990	32.501300
Norway	Kroner	0.121089	0.141929	7.752900
Pakistan	Rupee	0.01489	0.017452	0.953300
South Africa	Rand	0.123112	0.144300	7.882400
Korea	Won	0.000727	0.000852	0.046500
Sweden	Kroner	0.111645	0.130859	7.148200
Syria	Pound	0.020314	0.023810	1.300600
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025242	0.029586	1.616100
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000535	0.000627	0.034200

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NOW SHOWING

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295453

1 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
2 UNDERWORLD
3 BUGBOG SARADO
4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
5 FREAKY FRIDAY
6 MATCHSTICKMEN
7 VISIBLE SECRET 2
8 THE SUSPECT

SM CITY CEBU
2313676

1 THE MEDALLION
2 TAKE MY BODY
3 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
4 AMERICAN PSYCHO 2
5 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
6 KISKISAN
7 FREDDY VS. JASON
8 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO

SM CITY BACOOR
4172668

1 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
2 FREAKY FRIDAY
3 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
5 UNDERWORLD
6 BUGBOG SARADO
7 THE TREK
8 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1 UNDERWORLD
2 FREAKY FRIDAY
3 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
5 INNER SENSES
6 BUGBOG SARADO

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8394975

1 BUGBOG SARADO
2 THE SUSPECT
3 UNDERWORLD
4 FREAKY FRIDAY

SM BICUTAN
7763065

1 UNDERWORLD
2 BUGBOG SARADO
3 FREAKY FRIDAY
4 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING

SM CITY MARILAO

OPENS
Nov. 28

SM STA. MESA
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1 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
2 THE SUSPECT
3 FREAKY FRIDAY
4 BUGBOG SARADO
5 UNDERWORLD
6 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
7 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
8 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
9 MATCHSTICKMEN
10 INNER SENSES

SM SOUTHMALL
8008088

1 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
2 UNDERWORLD
3 MATCHSTICKMEN
4 FREAKY FRIDAY
5 VISIBLE SECRET 2
6 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
7 BUGBOG SARADO
8 THE SUSPECT
9 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
10 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1 HIWAGA NG PRINSIPE AT SIRENA
2 VISIBLE SECRET 2
3 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
4 THE SUSPECT
5 MATCHSTICKMEN
6 BUGBOG SARADO
7 UNDERWORLD
8 FREAKY FRIDAY
9 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
10 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
11 INNER SENSES
12 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES

SM CITY DAVAO
2976958

1 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
2 NOWHERE IN AFRICA
3 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
4 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
5 ALEX & EMMA
6 THE MEDALLION

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1 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
2 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
3 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
4 THE MEDALLION

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1 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
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2 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
3 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
4 FREAKY FRIDAY
5 UNDERWORLD
6 THE SUSPECT
7 HOW TO DEAL
8 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
9 BUGBOG SARADO
10 MATCHSTICKMEN
11 VISIBLE SECRET 2
12 HIWAGA NG PRINSIPE AT SIRENA

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1 THE SUSPECT
2 HIWAGA NG PRINSIPE AT SIRENA
3 BUGBOG SARADO
4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA

SM CITY ILOILO
3369422

1 KATAS
2 RESERVED
3 FREDDY VS. JASON
4 THE MEDALLION
5 HOW TO DEAL
6 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
7 RESERVED
8 NEW BLOOD

SM CITY MANILA
5236240

1 FREAKY FRIDAY
2 HOW TO DEAL
3 INNER SENSES
4 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
5 THE SUSPECT
6 UNDERWORLD
7 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
8 MATCHSTICKMEN
9 VISIBLE SECRET 2
10 HIWAGA NG PRINSIPE AT SIRENA
11 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
12 BUGBOG SARADO

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
(088) 8593884

1 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
2 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
3 HOW TO DEAL
4 THE MEDALLION

SM CITY BAGUIO
(074) 4464505

OPENS
Nov. 21

THE PODIUM CINEMA

18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City • 636 9781 - 85

1 **FREAKY FRIDAY**
11:40 FS/12:10 MF/2:20/4:30/6:40/8:50/10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:40 END

2 **MATCHSTICKMEN**
11:00 FS/11:20 FS/1:40/4:00/6:20/8:40/10:35 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:55 END

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Galleria
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THX /All Digital

1 FREAKY FRIDAY 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30 THX	4 THE SUSPECT 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
2 FREAKY FRIDAY 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00	5 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING 11:25, 1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 9:55
3 MATCHSTICK MEN 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	6 UNDERWORLD 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
7 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES 11:25, 1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 9:55	9 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA 11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:00
8 BUGBOG SARADO 11:35, 1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 7:55, 10:00	10 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO 12:35, 2:55, 5:15, 7:35, 9:55

MATINEE PRICE: P100 THX cinema / P75 1level cinemas
Mon.- Fri. / 10am- 4pm (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)

Ermita
526-7185
536-7809 to 12

1 UNDERWORLD - 11:15, 1:25, 3:35, 5:45, 7:55, 10:00
2 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES - 11:00, 12:55, 2:50, 4:45, 6:40, 8:35, 10:30
3 BUGBOG SARADO - 10:55, 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35, 9:45
4 MATCHSTICK MEN - 11:10, 1:45, 4:20, 6:55, 9:40
5 THE SUSPECT - 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
6 FREAKY FRIDAY - 10:10, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:40
7 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING 10:20, 12:20, 2:20, 4:20, 6:20, 8:10, 10:00

Metro East
Marcos hway
682-8193/99
682-8280

1 FREAKY FRIDAY
2 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
3 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
4 UNDERWORLD
5 MATCHSTICK MEN
6 THE SUSPECT
7 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
8 BUGBOG SARADO

Novaliches
935-3229 / 31

1 UNDERWORLD
2 MATCHSTICK MEN
3 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
4 FREAKY FRIDAY
5 THE SUSPECT
6 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
7 AMERICAN PIE:THE WEDDING
8 BUGBOG SARADO

Star Mills Sn Fernando Pampanga (045)875-1927 (045)961-8270		Imus (046)471-8188 / 875-5858
FREAKY FRIDAY	1	UNDERWORLD
KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA/PILYA	2	AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
BUGBOG SARADO	3	BUGBOG SARADO
INNER SENSES	4	FREAKY FRIDAY
UNDERWORLD	5	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING	6	HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES

Bacolod (034)441-0458/59		Iloilo (033)336-8070 to 78
THE MEDALLION	1	FREDDY VS. JASON
AMERICAN PIE:THE WEDDING	2	NEW BLOOD
ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO	3	HOW TO DEAL
HOW TO DEAL	4	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	5	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
KISKISAN	6	THE MEDALLION

Sta. Rosa Laguna (049)837-0907		Lipa, Batangas Old National Highway, Malasa na Lupa
AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING	1	THE MEDALLION
PILYA	2	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	3	AMERICAN PIE:THE WEDDING
FREAKY FRIDAY	4	KATAS
BUGBOG SARADO	5	"RUNDOWN" OPENS ON OCT. 22

Malabon
Casquera
288-0985/2575

1 SUCKERS
2 BUGBOG SARADO
3 UNDERWORLD
4 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES

SOON TO OPEN
DASMARINAS, CAVITE
CAINTA JUNCTION

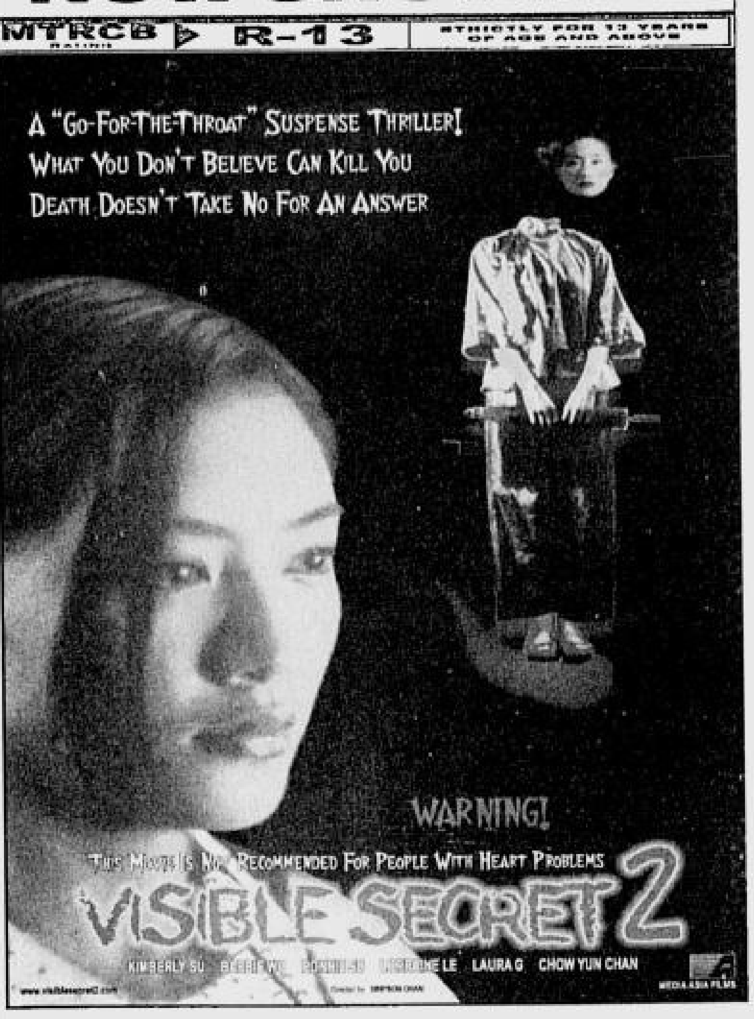
FREAKY FRIDAY

NOW SHOWING
at Robinsons Movieworld Cinemas

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

NOW SHOWING

MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 "STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE"


A "GO-FOR-THE-THROAT" SUSPENSE THRILLER!
WHAT YOU DON'T BELIEVE CAN KILL YOU
DEATH DOESN'T TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER
WARNING!
THIS MOVIE IS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR PEOPLE WITH HEART PROBLEMS
VISIBLE SECRET 2
KIMBERLY SU
LAURA G
CHOW YUN CHAN
MEDIA ASIA FILMS

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND•EX

UNDERWORLD R18 12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50	FREAKY FRIDAY GP 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING R18 12:10, 2:10, 4:10, 6:10, 8:10, 10:10
THE SUSPECT R13 11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40	HOW TO DEAL PG13 12:20, 2:30, 4:40, 6:50, 9:00	MATCHSTICKMEN PG13 12:40, 3:05, 5:30, 7:55, 10:20

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

Hawkers Market
FOOD FESTIVAL

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS
6PM ONWARDS

NESTEA
GOLD

POWER PLANT MALL
AT ROCKWELL

NOW SHOWING

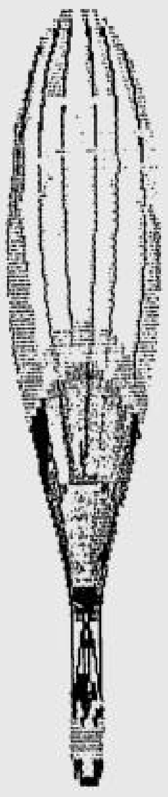
MAGIC 89.9

MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 "STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE"

BASED ON A SHOCKING TRUE STORY WRITTEN BY PULITZER-PRIZE WINNER MIKE McALARY

"A SOLID THRILLER"
-HSBR.Net
When you're searching for a killer, the last suspect you want to see is your son.
ROBERT DE NIRO
ELIZA DUSHKU
FRANCES McDORMAND
JAMES FRANCO
THE SUSPECT

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



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Pelikula
10.16-26

AYALA CINEMAS

Titulo
En Construccion
El Ultimo Viaje De Robert Rylands
Martin Hache
El Bola
La Comunidad
Sin Verguenza
It's For You
Silvia Prieto

Spanish Film Festival

October 16-26, 2003 Greenbelt 1 Cinema 1
For inquiries, pls. cal 752-7872

October 16 (Thur)
7:00 El Bola (Invitational)

October 17 (Fri)
2:00 En Construcció
4:30 El Último Viaje De Robert Rylands
7:00 Martin Hache
9:30 La Comunidad

October 18 (Sat)
11:30 Martin Hache
2:00 El Último Viaje De Robert Rylands
4:30 Sin Vergüenza
7:00 La Comunidad
9:30 El Bola

October 19 (Sun)
11:30 En Construcción
2:00 La Comunidad
4:30 El Bola
7:00 Silvia Prieto
9:30 Martin Hache

October 20 (Mon)
2:00 En Construcción
4:30 Silvia Prieto
7:30 It´S For You
9:30 Sin Vergüenza

October 21 (Tue)
2:00 La Comunidad
4:30 Silvia Prieto
7:00 El Bola
9:30 It´S For You

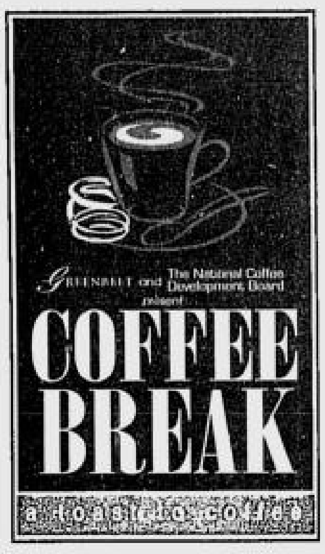
October 22 (Wed)
2:00 En Construcción
4:30 It´S For You
7:00 El Último Viaje De Robert Rylands
9:30 La Comunidad

October 23 (Thur)
2:00 Sin Vergüenza
4:30 It´S For You
7:00 Silvia Prieto
9:30 El Último Viaje De Robert Rylands

October 24 (Fri)
2:00 El Bola
4:30 La Comunidad
7:00 En Construcción
9:30 Martin Hache

October 25 (Sat)
11:30 Sin Vergüenza
2:00 Martin Hache
4:30 El Bola
7:00 Silvia Prieto
9:30 La Comunidad

October 26 (Sun)
11:30 Martin Hache
2:00 En Construcción
4:30 Sin Vergüenza
7:00 La Comunidad
9:30 El Bola



Greenbelt and The National Coffee Development Board present
COFFEE BREAK
a toast to coffee

FROM OCTOBER 7-26, ENJOY WHAT'S BREWING AT GREENBELT :

- Coffee Lounge and Museum
  October 7-26, Greenbelt 3 Ground Level
- Coffee Demos and Seminars
  October 18 & 25, 2:00-3:00 PM,
  Greenbelt 1 Center Lobby
  *For other seminars, check out participating Makati Hotels
- Live Jazz Performances - 7:00 - 8:00 PM
  Greenbelt 3, 3rd Level : October 17 - Ms. Eva Poon
  October 24 - Mute Madness

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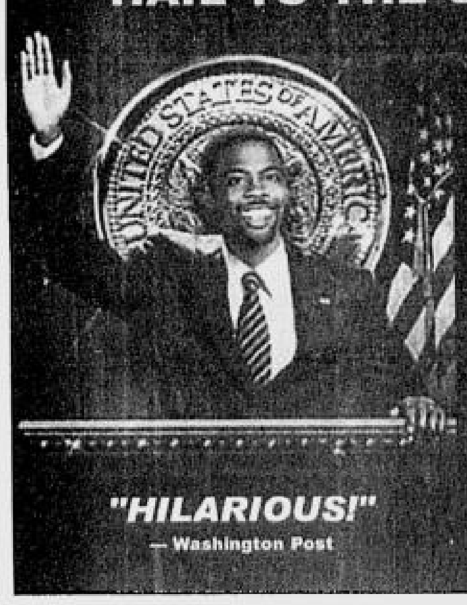
AYALA CENTER
GLORIETTA • GREENBELT

THE ONLY THING WHITE IS THE HOUSE
HAIL TO THE CHIEF OF COMEDY



"CHRIS ROCK rules!
— Fox News Channel

HEAD of STATE

Chris Rock stars as Mays Gilliam, a Washington D.C. neighborhood Alderman, who's about to be red-lined out of his job. But after the untimely death of the party frontrunner, Gilliam is plucked from obscurity and thrust into the limelight as his party's nominee – for President of the United States.

OPENS OCT. 22 EXCLUSIVELY AT GLORIETTA 4 & GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS

"HILARIOUS!"
— Washington Post

united international pictures · VIVA · AYALA CINEMAS

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PRESENTS

	G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1	FREAKY FRIDAY	MATCHSTICK MEN	Art Film THE MAGDALENE SISTERS 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30	THX GUARANTEED SEATS MATCHSTICK MEN 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30	THX FREAKY FRIDAY
2	AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING	THE SUSPECT	FREAKY FRIDAY 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30	THX GUARANTEED SEATS MATCHSTICK MEN 1:00, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30	AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
3	HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES	THX GUARANTEED SEATS AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30		GUARANTEED SEATS UNDERWORLD 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30	MATCHSTICK MEN
4	BUGBOG SARADO	THE MAGDALENE SISTERS	REGINE VELASQUEZ NOV. 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29, 9PM	GUARANTEED SEATS THE SUSPECT 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	UNDERWORLD
5		HOW TO DEAL		GUARANTEED SEATS AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15	THE SUSPECT
6		FREAKY FRIDAY			
7		UNDERWORLD			

For sreening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice. Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 and send to 2333. Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

MMTA
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MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING
EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	HOW TO DEAL
2 (SDDS)	GIGLI
3 (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE
4 (GOLD)(DTS ES)	MATCHSTICK MEN
5 (GOLD)(DOLBY EX)	THE SUSPECT
6 (GOLD)(SDDS)	FREAKY FRIDAY
7 (GOLD)(DOLBY EX)	UNDERWORLD
8	KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
9	BUGBOG SARADO
10	HOUSE OF 1,000 CORPSES

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3 (DTS)	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6 (DTS)	RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX	RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA 1 2 & 3
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1	BUGBOG SARADO
2	PRINSIPE AT SERENA
3	TREK

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1	VISIBLE SECRET
2	TREK
3	THE SUSPECT
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HOUSE OF 1,000 CORPSES
5	BUGBOG SARADO

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285

1	PILYA
2	BUGBOG SARADO
3	FREAKY FRIDAY
4	VISIBLE SECRET
5	THE SUSPECT
6	MATCHSTICK MEN

M star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas)
tel 873.5004

1
2

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) TEL. 893-4225, 892-2503

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
2	ASBOOBS

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1
2
3

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) TEL. 776-74-21

1	BUGBOG SARADO
2	
3	
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA
Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (SDDS)	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	VISIBLE SECRET 2
6	BUGBOG SARADO
7 (DTS)	MATCHSTICK MEN
8 (SDDS)	FREAKY FRIDAY
9 (DOLBY)	THE SUSPECT

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364-3781

1	KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2	BUGBOG SARADO
3	BUGBOG SARADO
4 (SDDS)	UNDERWORLD
5	PRINSIPE AT SERENA
6 (DOLBY)	HOUSE OF 1,000 CORPSES
7 (DTS)	VISIBLE SECRET 2
8	KATAS
9	KISKISAN

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082

1	BUGBOG SARADO
2 (SDDS)	TREK
3 (DTS)	HOUSE OF 1,000 CORPSES
4 (DOLBY)	PRINSIPE AT SERENA
5	PILYA

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	BUGBOG SARADO
2	HOUSE OF 1,000 CORPSES
3 (DTS)	PRINSIPE AT SERENA
4	KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
5 (SDDS)	UNDERWORLD

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	RESERVE

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	RESERVE

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR
Lords	MASARAP MAINIT
Jennet	RESERVE

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	BUGBOG SARADO
2	PRINSIPE AT SERENA
3	HOUSE OF 1,000 CORPSES
4	RESERVE

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	MATCHSTICK MEN
2	PRINSIPE AT SERENA
3	FREAKY FRIDAY
4	BUGBOG SARADO
5	HOUSE OF 1,000 CORPSES

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	PRINSIPE AT SERENA
2	TREK

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta Center

MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821,8242/8400

1	HOUSE OF 1,000 CORPSES
2	BUGBOG SARADO
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	UNDERWORLD
4 (SDDS)	THE SUSPECT
5 (DTS)	FREAKY FRIDAY
6	AMERICAN PIE
7	MATCHSTICK MEN

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821,8242/8400

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
TEL. (049) 837-0820

1	PILYA
2	BUGBOG SARADO
3 (DTS)	FREAKY FRIDAY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	BUGBOG SARADO
2 (DTS)	FREAKY FRIDAY
3 (DOLBY)	AMERICAN PIE
4	KUNG AKO NALANG SANA

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	FREAKY FRIDAY
2 (DOLBY)	BUGBOG SARADO
3 (DTS)	KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
4	AMERICAN PIE

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	FREDDY VS. JASON
2	HOW TO DEAL
3 (DOLBY)	KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2	FREDDY VS. JASON
3 (DOLBY)	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
4 (DTS)	HOW TO DEAL

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 (DOLBY)	FREDDY VS. JASON
2 (DTS)	HOW TO DEAL
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	BUGBOG SARADO
2	PRISIPE AT SERENA
3 (DTS)	
4	

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	UNDERWORLD
2	BUGBOG SARADO
3 (DTS)	FREAKY FRIDAY
4	
5	

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	KISKISAN
2	KATAS
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

1	FREAKY FRIDAY
2	PILYA
3	BUGBOG SARADO

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	FREDDY VS. JASON
2	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
3 (DTS)	KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
4 (DOLBY)	MEDALLION

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	RESERVE
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	PILYA
2	KATAS
3	RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	KATAS
2	MEDALLION
3	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
4	AMERICAN PIE

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	TREK
3 (DTS ES)	FREAKY FRIDAY
4	MEDALLION

Cine Nepo Mall
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887-0121

1	AMERICAN PSYCHO
2	WALKING UP IN RENO
3 (DOLBY)	FREAKY FRIDAY
4 (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

FESTIVAL SUPERMALL
Level 4
Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang

Tel. 85035-71 to 72

Schedule subject to change without prior notice

FREAKY FRIDAY

NOW SHOWING

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Solution to restenosis now available worldwide

THE SOLUTION to restenosis, recognized by cardiologists to be the final stumbling block in the treatment of coronary artery disease, is now available to heart patients all over the world, after completion of landmark studies that covered Europe, Asia, and the United States. This was reported by Dato Seri Dr. Robaayah Zambahari, at the recent 34th Annual Convention of the Philippine Heart Association (PHA).

In the Philippines, one in twenty adults over 40 years old suffer from one form of coronary artery disease (CAD) or another. An estimated 1.28 million Filipinos suffer from CAD, while heart-related diseases, in general, rank as the leading cause of death among Filipinos. For treatment, only approximately 4.5 million people worldwide undergo medical therapy: 1.5 million in the US, 1 million in Europe and 2 million in the rest of the world. Fortunately, this staggering situation is being addressed by heart doctors and researchers the world over, and breakthrough solutions are announced with increasing frequency. Just about the most significant of these recent breakthroughs is Cypher Sirolimus-eluting Stent.

Cypher Sirolimus-eluting Stent is a tiny heart device, a medicine-coated mesh tube that props open clogged arteries after angioplasty. It releases a drug designed to help keep scar tissue from forming and re-clogging the arteries, addressing the potential for restenosis, one of the most stubborn problems - and regarded to be the final stumbling block - in coronary artery disease treatment. Restenosis is the re-narrowing of diseased coronary arteries previously treated with balloon angioplasty procedures.

Dato Seri Dr. Zambahari, noted Malaysian cardiologist, was invited by Johnson & Johnson Medical Philippines (JJMP) to deliver the good news to Filipino heart doctors, as well as to Filipino heart patients, in the face of rising mortality rates caused by heart problems. Dato Seri Dr. Zambahari heads the Department of Cardiology at the Institut Jantung Negara, the premier heart institute in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Dato Seri Dr. Zambahari also reported that Cypher is the first US - FDA-approved combination drug-device intended to help reduce re-blockage of a treated coronary artery.

Since its launch in the Philippines, In August 2002, more than 500 patients have befitted from the technology of Cypher Sirolimus-eluting Stent, and more have gone to their doctors inquiring about it. Interested patients may inquire at the Asian Hospital and Medical Center, Cardinal Santos Medical Center, Chinese General Hospital, Makati Medical Center, Philippine General Hospital, Philippine Heart Center, St. Luke's Medical Center, The Medical City, University of Santo Tomas Hospital, or at the Chong Hua Hospital in Cebu City. Patients may also call Johnson & Johnson at 8247901 local 8750 for inquiries.

UNION CEMENT INAUGURATES ITS CEMS

As part of the company's continuing commitment to the environment, Union Cement installed the Continuous Emissions Monitoring Systems or the Cems in all its four plants in Davao City, Misamis Oriental, La Union and Bulacan. The Cems provides 24-hour emissions monitoring not just of dust but of various gaseous compounds allowing the user to immediately institute operational measures to meet environmental performance standards. It provides on-line information about emissions no other cement plant in the world has. Union's Cement plants are certified to ISO 9002 and ISO 14001 standards a testament to the company's commitment to its environmental responsibility. Moreover, Bulacan and La Union plants are ISO 18001 (Occupational Health and Safety) certified, a commitment to providing a safe and healthy work environment. Union is a member of Holcim - one of the world's leading suppliers of cement as well as aggregates, concrete, and construction-related services. Guests at the inauguration at the Union Davao plant were headed by DENR Usec Manuel Gerochi, EMB director Julian Amador, Union Cement president Dr. Magdaleno Albarracin Jr., Julius Yballe, SVP for operations, local officials of Davao City and the host barangay of Union.

DAVAO jaycee SENATE
WELCOME
NATIONAL PRESIDENT SERGIE VALENCIA

PHILIPPIINE JAYCEE SENATE 2003 NATIONAL CONVENTION

The Philippine Jaycee Senate, headed by national president Sergie Valencia and The Davao Jaycee Senate led by chapter president Bobby Orig signs the contract to host the 35th PJS National Convention which will be held on Oct. 16 to 18 at The Marco Polo Hotel, Davao City. Witnessing the signing are officers and members of both PJS and the DJS. Seated (from left) are: DJS director Nilo Abellera, PJS VP for Mindanao Noly Quindoy, PJS EVP Lito Trajano, PJS secretary general Joe Sevilla, PJS president Sergie Valencia, DJS president Bobby Orig, DJS secretary general Bong Cristobal, PJS VP for Luzon Ronnie Reyes, DJS senator Mags Cruz. Standing (from left) are: (all Davao JC senators unless otherwise indicated) Jeffrey Catotal, director George Misa, director Ben Venus, Teddy Palma Gil, VP Arman Carino, Jun Revelo, PJS IPP Nonoy Villa-Abrille, Tony Tan, Tony Valenzuela, Davao City Vice Mayor Louie Bonguyan, Buds Nagal, director Gershon Patalinhug, Narda Lu, Jess Maningo, PJSF president Ony Partoza, Joe Estrada, PDJ director Deng Dimalanta, Crispo Liceralde, Nelson Verdote, Flo Tan, Joe Valenzuela.

ProductFILES

GBX cush.tech

ONE of the styles in the Athleisure collection features GBX's patented cush.tech: a lightweight insole polymer gel designed for superior shock absorption during heel strike, excellent cushioning and long-lasting comfort. This collection highlights Hyperspeed, a combination of suede leather and harbospacer material in vibrant colors.

AGORA AWARDS COMMITTEE

Photo shows the Agora Awards committee, from left (standing) are: Sarah Velasco, PMA secretariat; Henry Tenedero, category head, education; Antonio Roderick Cabusao, chair - sponsorship; Donald Lim, category head, advocacy marketing; Mon Alcaraz, chair - staging; Ricky De Vera, category head, entrepreneurship; Joel Jimenez, category head, Asia Pacific Agora Awards for Marketing Excellence; Lira Ligero, PMA secretariat. From left (seated): Gennier De Guia, chair, souvenir program and exhibit; Mylene Abiva-Sazon, director-in-charge, Agora Awards; Von Hizon, program chair; Edith Dy Chiao, category head, marketing company of the year.

Bits C'ips

3rd Cooperative Congress

THE UNION of Metro Manila Cooperatives (UMMC) will spearhead the upcoming 3rd Metro Manila Cooperative Congress on Oct. 16 to 17 to be held at the PICC Convention Center Pasay City, Metro Manila. This year's theme is "Advocating Global Standards for Cooperative Business Excellence." Registration fee is P3,000. For more information, call 895-7004 or 896-5043 or email at ummc@pacific.net.ph.

'Entrepreneurial Opportunities'

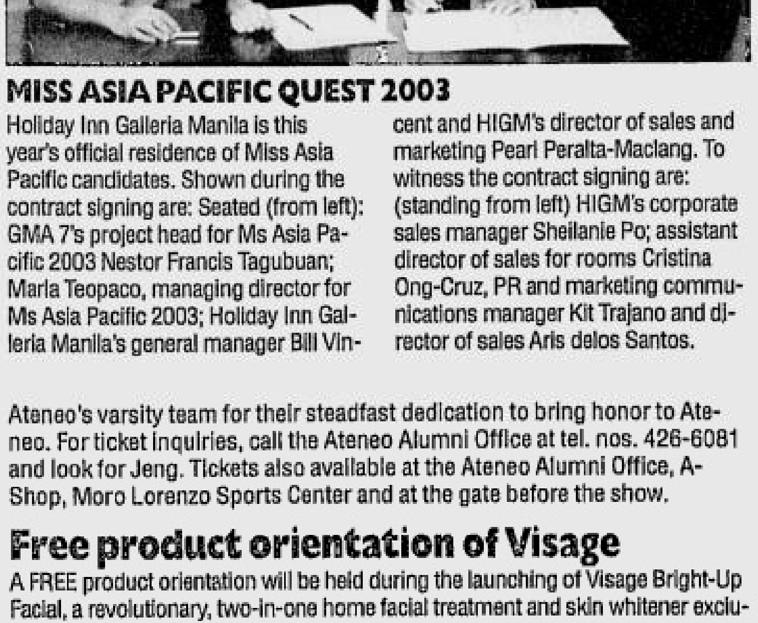
THE 3RD Kapihang Entrepinoy themed "Entrepreneurial Opportunities" will be held today, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Senden Hall of the Asian Social Institute. It aims to gather and provide entrepreneurs and would-be entrepreneurs with new and innovative prospects to become competitive in these trying times. The 3rd Kapihang Entrepinoy will simultaneously hold The Center for Small Entrepreneurs' 7th anniversary celebrations. Registration fee is P300 inclusive of snacks, topic hand-outs and a certificate of attendance to those who will attend the business forum in its entirety. For more information, call 525-6268, 523-9776, 0916-303-7443; email cse@pacific.net.ph; website www.csentrepinoy.org.

'Positivism: a way of life'

THE HERALD Suites Hotel will present a one-man exhibit of paintings and sculptures by painter E.R. Tagle, entitled 'Positivism: a way of life', today at 6:00 p.m., at the ground floor of Herald Suites Hotel, Don Chino Roces Ave., Makati City. Asiaweek magazine considered Tagle as Manila's most prolific artist in their 1992 issue. All the artworks are for sale for the benefit of the "Ang Dating Bakal (Batang Kalye) Artist Group" who have been attending free art lessons conducted by E.R. Tagle and his artist-friends. For inquiries, call Ivydell Quizon of Positivism Art Gallery at 899-6358 or 0917-972-6223.

'Win or Lose it's the Concert We Choose'

THE ATENEO de Manila University college batch '80 invites everyone to a concert entitled "Win or Lose it's the Concert We Choose" featuring The Apo Hiking Society and Parokya ni Edgar for the benefit of the Ateneo Scholarship Fund. The concert will be held on Oct. 18, 8 p.m. at the College Covered Courts, Loyola Heights Campus. The concert will also serve as a tribute to Ateneo's varsity team for their steadfast dedication to bring honor to Ateneo. For ticket inquiries, call the Ateneo Alumni Office at tel. nos. 426-6081 and look for Jeng. Tickets also available at the Ateneo Alumni Office, A-Shop, Moro Lorenzo Sports Center and at the gate before the show.



MISS ASIA PACIFIC QUEST 2003

Holiday Inn Galleria Manila is this year's official residence of Miss Asia Pacific candidates. Shown during the contract signing are: Seated (from left): GMA 7's project head for Ms Asia Pacific 2003 Nestor Francis Tagubuan; Maria Teopaco, managing director for Ms Asia Pacific 2003; Holiday Inn Galleria Manila's general manager Bill Vincent and HIGM's director of sales and marketing Pearl Peralta-Maclang. To witness the contract signing are: (standing from left) HIGM's corporate sales manager Sheilanie Po; assistant director of sales for rooms Cristina Ong-Cruz, PR and marketing communications manager Kit Trajano and director of sales Aris delos Santos.

Free product orientation of Visage

A FREE product orientation will be held during the launching of Visage Bright-Up Facial, a revolutionary, two-in-one home facial treatment and skin whitener exclusively distributed by the Perfect Solution Trading Co, the marketing arm of Tony Galvez Hair Salon. Free product trial on the immediate effectiveness of Visage will be done today, from 1 to 5 p.m. at Tony Galvez Centrum located at 124 9th Ave. near P. Tuazon, Araneta Center. For inquiries, call 913-4370 and 912-5930.

MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC.
G/F MWSI Bldg., MWSS Complex
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, Philippines 1100
Tel. Nos. 435-3368, 920-5521 loc. 3600, 3615, 3616

INVITATION TO BID

The Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (MWSI) is inviting qualified suppliers to participate in the forthcoming E-Bidding for the One (1) Year supply and staggered delivery of total 28,450 metric tons Liquid Aluminum Sulfate, as follows:

1. 17,500 MT - for La Mesa Treatment Plant No. 1
2. 10,950 MT - for La Mesa Treatment Plant No. 2

Bid Documents can be secured at the MWSS-Purchasing Department Basement, MWSI Building, MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City at a non-refundable fee of P2,000 per set. The bid documents will be issued to interested bidders from **October 20, 2003** up to **October 24, 2003**.

The required Pre-Qualification Documents shall be submitted on **October 30, 2003**, Thursday, up to 5:00 p.m.

Bid Security shall be submitted on **November 11, 2003**, Tuesday, up to 5:00 p.m.

E-BIDDING is scheduled on **November 14, 2003**, Friday, 2:00 p.m.

(Sgd.) IGNACIO B. GIMENEZ
SAVP, Corporate Logistics

(PDI - Oct. 15 & 16, 2003)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
BRANCH 214, MANDALUYONG CITY

IN THE MATTER OF PETITION FOR REHABILITATION, FORMATION AND APPOINTMENT OF REHABILITATION RECEIVER; THE APPROVAL OF REHABILITATION PLAN WITH PRAYER FOR THE DECLARATION OF SUSPENSION OF PAYMENTS AND ACTIONS/PROCEEDINGS AGAINST PETITIONING DEBTORS AND THEIR OFFICERS.

SEC CASE NO. MC-03-073

JMMIRANDA REALTY & DEV'T. INC.; AGRINTER CORP.; MIRANDA BROS. INVESTMENT & TRADING CORP. AND REFERRED TO HEREIN AS THE MIRANDA GROUP OF CORPORATIONS.

Petitioner

x---x

ORDER

This is a Petition for Rehabilitation, Formation and Appointment of Rehabilitation Receiver; The Approval of Rehabilitation Plan With Prayer for the Declaration of Suspension of Payments and Actions/ Proceedings Against Petitioning Debtors and their Officers filed by Petitioners JMMiranda Realty & Dev't., Inc.; Agrinter Corp.; and Miranda Bros. Investment & Trading Corp. whose set of officers and Directors are the same and referred to herein as the Miranda Group of Corporations which among others, prays for the issuance of a Stay Order Pursuant to Section 6, Rule 4 of the Interim Rules of Procedure on Corporate Rehabilitation....xxxxxxxxxxx...

...xxxxx... In subtantial compliance to the Rules (Section 2, Rule 4, Interim Rules of Procedure on Corporate Rehabilitation), the Petition was accompanied by the documentary supports, which this Court found to be in accordance with the requirements of the aforesaid law.

WHEREFORE, the Petition being sufficient in form and substance, a Stay Order pursuant to Rule 4, Section 6, of the Interim Rules of Procedure on Corporate Rehabilitation is hereby issued, as follows:

(a) Staying enforcement of all claims, whether for money or otherwise and whether such enforcement is by Court action or otherwise against petitioners, its guarantors and sureties not solidarily liable with it;

(b) Prohibiting petitioners from selling, encumbering, transferring or disposing in any manner any of its properties, except in the ordinary course of business;

(c) Prohibiting petitioners from making any payments of its liabilities outstanding as at the date of filing of the Petition;

(d) Prohibiting the suppliers of goods and services of petitioners from withholding supply of goods and services in the course of business for as long as petitioner makes payments for the services and goods supplied after the issuance of this Stay Order; and,

(e) Directing the payment in full of all administrative-expenses incurred after the issuance of this Stay Order.

Mr. Jorge M. Ilagan is appointed rehabilitation receiver who can assume the position upon taking an oath and after posting a bond in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (P250,000.00) executed in favor of petitioner, to guarantee that he will faithfully discharge his duties and the orders of this Court.

Let this Stay Order be published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer, a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines, once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks from the date of the Order, at the expense of the petitioners.

All creditors and all interested parties (including the Securities and Exchange Commission) are directed to file and serve on the petitioner their verified comment on or opposition to the petition, with supporting affidavits and documents, not later than ten (10) days before the date of the initial hearing. Within such time as to enable all creditors and interested parties to file their comment on, or opposition to the petition and to prepare them for the initial hearing of the petition, they are directed to secure from this Court copies of the petition and its annexes.

Let the initial hearing of the petition be set on November 6, 2003 at 8:30 o'clock in the morning.

SO ORDERED.

Mandaluyong City
15 September 2003

EDWIN D. SORONGON
Judge

(PDI–Oct. 16, 2003)

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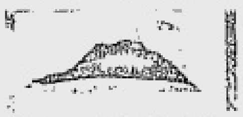

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that heirs of late CAYO MAGSUMBOL executed a deed of extra-judicial settlement and sale to co-heir duly acknowledged before Notary Public Warlito C. Buenavista for and in the City of Manila per Doc 301 Page 62 Book XXXI Series of 2003.
PDI-October 2, 9 and 16, 2003

Notice is given of the estate of the late SALVADOR I. DEL ROSARIO was extrajudicially settled among the heirs as per Doc .3143 Page46 Book 460 Series2003 before Notary Public Jose L. Ma. Santos of Quezon City.
PDI-Oct.9, 16 & 23,2003

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ELPIDIA A. ARCETA has been extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc No. 225; Page No 45; Book No XII; Series of 2001 of Notary Public for Quezon City Benjamin Mogpo Jr.
PDI-October 2, 9 and 16,2003

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late spouses RODOLFO G. PE—A and ESTELA A. PE—A was extra-judicially settled by the heirs as per Doc#112, Page#21, Book#111, Series of 2003 before Notary Public Atty. Ma. Girlene Alcantara of Bacoor, Cavite.
(PDI-October 16, 23 & 30, 2003)

C & F MANUFACTURING

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Attention : **Mr. Rico Mozo**
Unit No. 7B, Valero Tower
122 Valero Street
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Heroes Int'l Placement and Promotion Inc.

We wish to inform the public that **HEROES INTERNATIONAL PLACEMENT & PROMOTION INCORPORATED,** a corporation duly registered at the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC Reg. No. CS200311748), is currently in the process of licensing at the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, for the recruitment, screening and deployment of Filipino workers for employment abroad.

Its Board of Directors are composed of the following:

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RICARDO T. MENDOZA, JR.	–President/Member of the Board
BARTOLOME M. SAN MARTIN, JR.	–Corporate Secretary/Member
EVALYN C. OLASIMAN	–Corporate Treasurer/Member
ROCELYN B. ROMUALDO	–Member of the Board

Our corporate offices are located at #2035-C. Adriatico Street, Malate, Manila. You may call us at telephone numbers 5364489 to 90 or send your inquiries on telefax number 4043754. You can also reach us at our e-mail address heroes_intl@yahoo.com.

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ELPIDIA A. ARCETA has been extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc No. 225; Page No 45; Book No XII; Series of 2001 of Notary Public for Quezon City Benjamin Mogpo Jr.
PDI-October 2, 10 & 16,2003

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LAWYER

FINANCING COMPANY 27 yrs in business and its Affiliates need an in-house Legal Counsel w/ at least 3 yrs experience in actual LITIGATION, not more than 35 yrs old and computer literate.

Qualified applicants are requested to send their Resumé, Transcript of Records, Bar Ratings, three (3) Samples of Major Pleadings, and recent 2x2 Photo to Central P.O. Box 1937, 1259 Makati City.

Republic of the Philippines
Procurement Service
INTER-AGENCY BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PROCUREMENT SERVICE (PS) invites G-EPS registered suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION, CONFIGURATION and TESTING of BRANDED PERSONAL COMPUTERS AND UPS for the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHIC).

The approved budget for this contract is P32,820,000.00

All interested parties are invited to attend the Pre-Bid Conference on OCTOBER 23, 2003, at 1:30 P.M. at the PS Conference Room, Room 207, PS Complex, Cristobal St., Paco, Manila.

The bid documents shall be available at the PS-PURCHASING DIVISION starting October 9, 2003 upon payment of non-refundable fee of (Php 3,500.00)

The bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes in the bid box located at the PS Conference Room at the above mentioned address. Deadline for submission and receipt of bids shall be on November 06, 2003 at 1:30 P.M.

For more information, please call the PS-Purchasing Division at telephone nos. 561-60-98 or 563-93-74.

PS reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the eligibility requirements and to this invitation. PS further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO P. OPIDA
Chairman, IABAC

(PDI – October 9 & 16, 2003)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that Stock Certificate No. 0553 issued on February 17, 1981 to Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company, Inc. over one (1) Class A Share of the LUISITA GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB, INC. has been lost and cannot be located despite diligent efforts. Said share is now the property of PepsiCo., Inc., Philippine Branch.

Raoul Santiagu
Finance Director
PepsiCo., Inc.
Philippine Branch

(PDI – Oct. 16, 2003)

POEA
24-HR HOTLINES
722-1144
722-1155

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8974808
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☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
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(632) 845-2341 or (632) 845-2342
sales@heritagepark.com.ph

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help

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San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
Tels. 747-8599; 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1760
AUREA QUIOGUE FUNERAL HOMES
243 A.B. Fernandez Ave.,
Dagupan City, Pangasinan
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CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1305 G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City
Tel. 732-0309; 732-1095
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street,
Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu;
Tels. 346-2543; 346-2601
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City;
Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City;
Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1258
DAYAO FUNERAL HOME
#2 Bayani St., Galas, Quezon City;
Tels. 740-2683; 781-3705; 781-3688;
413-9400; 715-5594
DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City
Tels. (047) 222-3605; (047) 811-1086; (047)
222-4512; (047) 224-2014
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City; Tel. 894-5932 to 34
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St.,
Manuguit, Manila
Tels. 712-5102; 741-5125; 741-5133;
Fax No. 711-3084
DYNASTY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
965 Del Monte Ave., Frisco, Quezon City; Tels.
416-3231; 4162373
ERIC SANTIAGO MEMORIAL CHAPELS
26 Bayanbayan Ave., Concepcion I,
Marikina City; Tels. 942-6044; 475-1177

FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion,
Malabon, Metro Manila;
Tels. 2812963; 2813034; 2810522
FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St.,
Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
Tels. (045) 888-2959 ; (045) 322-5247
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No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City;
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Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat Rd., Sucat, Parañaque
City; Tels. 825-1296; 825-1291,
Telefax: 825-1314
LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#27 Crisologo St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur; Tel. 722-
2730; Cell (0917) 5680136; (0917) 5680145
Manila #23 Palo St., Project 2,
Quezon City; Tel. 434-3258

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila;
Tels. 711-6931 to 35; 732-4795; 732-2827
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143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kaliraya St.,
Quezon City
Tels. 749-3808 to 11; 712-3001; 743-6502 or 05
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Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque;
Tels. 820-1592; 825-9947; 825-8635
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Tel. (074) 443-3337; (074) 442-3117
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Tels. (046) 471-3386; (046) 471-4417;
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Makati City; Tels. 895-1011 to 19
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Loyola Memorial Park, A. Bonifacio Avenue,
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Tels. 941-3196 to 98; 941-3676;
Telefax 941-3577
MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Hiway, Antipolo, Rizal;
Tels. 645-1855; 682-0209; 682-0210
MARCELO FUNERAL HOMES
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Arellano St., Dagupan City;
Tels. (075) 515-5960; 522-8783;
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427-8412; 4278403
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Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th-Lacson
St., Mandalagan, Bacolod City; Tel. 433-7132
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
439 Cementina St., Pasay City;
Tels. 831-1204
Sucat Branch: 8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave.,
Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels. 826-1378; 826-8682; (0915) 712-1220
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City;
Tel. Nos. 843-8838/30; Fax No. 843-9223
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City; Telefax
724-4139; 725-2044
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City;
Tels. 852-8228; 852-7284
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Manila; Tels. 749-3679; 781-1772
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Tels. 372-5084; 410-9286/87
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2028 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila;
Tels. 493-4458; 493-4540
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City; Tels. 831-3797; 844-7846;
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Tel. 302-5447
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Brgy. Del Remedio, San Pablo City, Laguna
Tels. (049) 562-1668; 800-2914 Cel. No.
(0917) 5016963

WE LOVINGLY REMEMBER

the 6th Death Anniversary of our Mother

FELISA SALVOSA TORRES

who joined her Creator on October 16, 1997

Holy Masses for her eternal peace and happiness will be offered today, October 16, 2003 at the following Churches:

1. St. Jerome the Parish Church .... 6:15 AM
Ayala-Alabang, Muntinlupa
2. St. Jerome Emiliani & St. Susana Parish Church .... 6:00 AM
Ayala, Muntinlupa City
3. Sanctuario de San Antonio Parish Church .... 6:30 AM
Forbes Park, Makati City
4. Sanctuario de Santo Cristo Parish Church .... 6:00 AM
San Juan, Metro Manila
5. St. John the Baptist Church .... 6:00 AM
Pinaglabanan, San Juan
6. St. Alphonsus Mary de Ligouri .... 7:00 AM
Magallanes Village, Makati City
7. Archdiocesan Shrine of the Divine Mercy .... 3:00 PM
Maysilo St., Mandaluyong City
8. Parish of Our Lady of the Abandoned .... 7:00 PM
Sta. Ana, Manila
9. Sacred Heart Parish Church .... 5:30 AM
Kamuning, Quezon City

We, the family, would like to request relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul. May her soul rest in peace with the Lord.

CLASSIFIEDS

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
Industry and Investments Building
385 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue
Makati City, Philippines
Fax No. 895-83-22
Tel. Nos. 897-66-82
890-13-32

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of **DAVAO INDUSTRIAL PLASTIC STRAP CORP.**, with address at **MAMAY ROAD, BUHANGIN, DAVAO CITY** for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended, as **NEW INDIRECT EXPORT PRODUCER OF INDUSTRIAL PLASTIC STRAP** on a **NON-PIONEER STATUS** such as but not limited to **INDUSTRIAL PLASTIC STRAP** at a capacity of 264.194 metric tons per year and with existing / proposed plant site at **MAMAY ROAD, BUHANGIN, DAVAO CITY** has been officially accepted on **September 12, 2003** and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection in writing and under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) **DENNIS R. MIRALLES**
Director
Investment Assistance Department

(PDI – Oct. 16, 2003)

PGMA vowed to strengthen the agricultural sector and the local grains industry

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo underscored anew the firm commitment of her administration to strengthen the agriculture sector and the local grains industry during her visit in Cabanatuan City recently.

The President attended to the actual weighing of palay produce from farmers at the NFA warehouse and personally handed the check amounting to P56,078.42 to one farmer leader Daniel Villareal as payment for 118 bags of palay.

The President noted in particular the efficient rice distribution activity of the agency which has continued to keep the price of rice within the reach of consumers despite several critical periods like US-Iraq War, Oakwood Mutiny and the recent lean months of July-September where there was zero rice production.

Dispersal of seedling which was attended by thousands of farmers and city folks was undertaken shortly thereafter. Some 650 coupons were distributed to farmers by Mayor Jay Vergara to avail of certified seeds, grafted mango and calamansi seedlings and assorted vegetable seeds for free.

Meanwhile, Cabanatuan City Mayor Julius Cesar V. Vergara presented to the President the on-going infrastructure projects of Cabanatuan City government particularly the construction of Cesar Vergara Bridge in Sumacab Norte.

Pres. Arroyo distributed free medicines at the Paulino J. Garcia Memorial Hospital. Recipients of the million-peso worth of medicines were indigent patients of the said government hospital.

Yap, speaking before NFA employees, lauded the President for witnessing NFA procurement operations as a gesture of support for the agency and its mandate in stabilizing food supply and prices. He also expressed his appreciation of NFA employees' efforts in attaining genuine food security for the Filipino people.

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The City Government of Naga, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as "Medium A" to apply for registration and eligibility, and if found eligible, to bid for the following projects under the Build and Transfer Scheme as governed by RA 6957, as amended, and by Naga City Ordinance No. 2001-074. More specifically, project payment will be one year from completion at a fixed interest rate.

Name of Project and Location	Equipment Needed	Contract Duration	Approved budget
Construction of Calauag-San Felipe Storm Drainage System, Naga City	Back hoe, Welding machine Concrete mixer	250 days	P 8,867,500.00
Hauling of Earthfill at Brgy. Queborac, Urban Poor Site, Bag. 'Sur, Naga City	Loader, Dump trucks, Grader Road Roller	240 days	P 7,569,100.00

The Checklist of Registration and Eligibility Requirements will be available to interested bidders for issuance starting **October 8, 2003** at the BAC Secretariat, City Planning and Development Office (CPDO), Naga City. Interested bidders shall submit their letter of intent and their registration and eligibility requirements to the CPDO not later than 12 noon on **October 29, 2003**, and secure the results of the eligibility screening on **October 31.**

Bid documents will be issued to eligible bidders until **November 7, 2003** upon payment to the City Treasurer's Office of a non-refundable amount of P2,000.00 per project. Eligible bidders must attend a pre-bid conference on **November 14, 2003** at 3:00 p.m. at the Bicol. Science Centrum Conference Room, Naga City. Deadline for the submission of bids is until 12:00 noon, **November 28, 2003** at the CPDO. Opening of bids will start at 2:00 p.m. on the same day.

The Bids and Awards Committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any minor defects in order to obtain the most advantageous offer to the city government. The City Government will not compensate nor indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation and submission of their bid.

JESSE M. ROBREDO
City Mayor

(PDI--Oct. 9, 16 & 23, 2003)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telefax Nos.: 421-2327; 911-6001 Loc. 6592
website: www.afp.mil.ph
e-mail: cosb.19@afp.mil.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites all manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Supply and Delivery of Dental Equipment, with an approved budget of Twelve Million Pesos (Php 12,000,000.00) chargeable against the AFP Modernization Program CY 2002 funds, broken down into five (5) components, as follows:

Dental Equipment	Qty.	Budget
Amalgamator	10	200,000.00
Dental Unit Chair Endodontic Module	10	7,350,000.00
Dental Unit Chair Intraoral Camera Monitor	5	2,150,000.00
Endodontic Unit and Handpiece	10	1,550,000.00
Light Curing Unit	15	750,000.00
TOTAL		**12,000,000.00**

Only bids from entities who are manufacturers of said equipment and who have or will establish an in-country manufacturing capability for this type of dental equipment shall be entertained.

Bid documents for each component will only be available for issuance starting **October 15, 2003** until **October 31, 2003** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, GHQ, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00) each, which is not refundable. The form of payment shall be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective bidder, authorizing its representative to purchase the bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of the said documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **October 24, 2003 at 09:00 a.m.** (local time) at the **Silid Panday Pira**, 1st Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bidders may submit their query/ies, if any, in writing to the BAC Secretariat not later than three (3) working days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

Deadline for submission of applications for eligibility requirements and the bid envelopes is on **November 13, 2003 at 08:00 a.m.** (local time) and followed by the Opening of Bids at **08:15 a.m.** at the Silid Panday Pira.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids based on the grounds specified in RA 9184 without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of his bid.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE CHAIRMAN, BAC

(Original Signed)
ALEXANDER D ALEO
Brigadier General AFP
Vice Chairman , BAC for GHQ Projects

(PDI - Oct. 16 & 20, 2003)

Be part of this exciting health show!

4th HEALTH & ORGANIC SHOW 2003
28-30 November 2003
SM Megatrade Hall
Mandaluyong City, Philippines

"Your Health, Your Wealth"

A healthy body, a well-balanced lifestyle, clean air and environment inside and outside our home...in this highly urbanized community that we live in where pollution is almost uncontrollable, and SARS endangering our lives...this is what each and every Filipino craves for and gives highest priority to achieve...

Promote healthy lifestyle and expand your market in this annual health show:

An excellent marketing, promotion, and networking place

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A perfect launching venue for health and wellness products and services

Introduce your products and services during the 3-day information-packed program at the Event Activity Area. Get trade opportunities, industry trends, and market developments...

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What's on Exhibit

- Natural/Herbal/Organic Food Products
- Food Supplements (Natural/Organic/Processed) BFAD/DOH Approved Medicines
- Consumer Health Care
- Wellness/Lifestyle Products
- Exercise/Fitness and Healthy Living
- Cosmetics, Skin, Hair, and Personal
- Care Products
- HMO, Medical Insurance, Hospitals, & Medical Clinics
- Medical/Sports Equipment & Hardware
- Alternative Medicine
- Alternative Health Practices
- Allied Products/Services

Highlights of Activities

- A showcase of different health, wellness, and beauty products by over 60 companies.
- Free lectures by medical/health experts
- Free demonstration on health exercises
- Free consultations/clinics by practitioners such as iridology, reflexology, facial services, bone density test, eye check -up, etc.
- Hands-on demonstration on different products and services.
- Business opportunity seminars by leading health companies.
- Product launching and food tasting

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Email: fiera@info.com.ph, fieram2@info.com.ph • Visit Website: http://www.fml.com.ph

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION
Region I Field Office

INVITATION TO BID

The Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC) hereby invites offers to purchase by way of cash sealed bids on the following properties:

NAME/LOCATION OF PROPERTY			REMARKS	HOUSE AREA, sm	LOT AREA, sm	MINIMUM BID PRICE, Pesos
1. Villa Manaoag Subdivision, Phase I Inventory						
Bgy. Pugaro, Manaoag, Pangasinan						
	BLK NO.	LOT NO.				
	1	6	House & Lot/Titled	24.00	163.00	180,000.00
	1	11	House & Lot/Titled	24.00	142.00	180,000.00
	1	12	House & Lot/Titled	24.00	154.00	180,000.00
	5	4	House & Lot/Titled	24.00	162.00	180,000.00
2. Villa Manaoag Subdivision, Phase II (70 lots)			Lots only/Titled		16,681.00	4,737,981.51
Bgy. Pugaro, Manaoag, Pangasinan						
3. Block 6, Lot 31, Villa Pozorrubio Subdivision			House & Lot/Titled	25.00	80.00	225,000.00
Bgy. Alipangpang, Pozorrubio, Pangasinan						
4. 160 Castro-Sarmenta Subdivision, Bolosan			House & Lot/Titled	102.00	185.00	650,000.00
District, Dagupan City, Pangasinan						

A bidder's bond equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the total bid price in the form of cash or certified manager's/cashier's check payable to HGC will be required of all prospective bidders.

The bidder is advised to inspect the actual condition of the property/ies subject of public bidding. All property/ies are being sold on "as-is" basis. Particulars may be obtained at the Region I Field Office, 2/F Insular Life Building, Abanao Road Extension, Baguio City, or call (074) 443-60-33, (074) 443-95-85, or (074) 446-48-81.

Sealed bids must be received on or before 2:00 pm, Monday, 03 November 2003 at the 2/F, Insular Life Building, Abanao Road Extension, Baguio City.

THE CORPORATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL OFFER, TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS THEREIN OR TO ACCEPT SUCH OFFERS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CORPORATION.

(Sgd.) **RAFAEL P. DELOS SANTOS**
Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–October 15, 16 & 17, 2003)

JOB · VISIT US AT www.jobmarketonline.com

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

1598 M. H. del Pilar Street, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 551-22-00, 522-00-00, 526-01-00

STATEMENT OF CONDITION

(Head Office and Branches)
As of September 19, 2003

ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Items	P	4,061,538,780
Due from Bangko Sentral		13,322,343,310
Due from Other Banks		1,881,370,979
Interbank Loans Receivable		13,215,147,000
Trading Account Securities (Net)		50,322,853
Investment in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)		94,228,525,292
Loans and Discounts and Advances (Net)		97,845,931,339
Underwriting Accounts (Net)		45,728,606
Equity Investments (Net)		5,970,480,388
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (Net)		4,798,678,678
Other Assets (Net)		
Property Owned/Acquired		14,436,545,957
Others		10,031,153,593
TOTAL ASSETS	P	259,687,766,773
LIABILITIES		
Demand Deposits	P	78,234,966,833
Savings Deposits		94,177,345,986
Time Deposits		18,494,691,480
Special/Other Deposits		2,363,047,857
Due to Bangko Sentral		142,824,977
Due to Banks		354,527,584
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		1,372,798,639
Bills Payable		
BSP-Rediscounting/Special Programs		736,817,324
Deposits Substitutes		237,058,512
Others		30,102,058,388
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits		3,290,246,130
Other Liabilities		8,077,232,597
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	237,573,614,307
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		
Capital Stock	P	10,200,000,000
Surplus		7,361,895,668
Surplus Reserves		4,165,412,077
Other Capital Accounts		386,844,721
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		22,114,152,466
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	259,687,766,773
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	P	6,116,065,109
Bills for Collection		1,085,048,389
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		8,331,724,780
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		(690,457,072)
Assets Held under Trust and Investment Management Agreements		
Invested in		
- Government Securities		6,823,852,154
- Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Shares of Stocks		89,523,241
- Loans and Discounts		1,662,703,380
- Other Assets		2,793,755,964
Accountabilities		
- Trust and Other Fiduciary		1,806,475,313
- Common Trust Funds		2,569,038,305
- Investment/Fund Management		6,994,321,121
Other Contingent Accounts		31,633,297,359
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P	57,845,513,304

Other Information:

1	Deposits of:		
	a. Government	P	128,512,551,875
	b. Banks		4,454,051,026
	c. Trust Department		300,935,153
2.	Compliance with Magna Carta Law:		
	a. Prescribed Ratio of Compliance for 6% (Small Enterprises)		15.79%
	b. Prescribed Ratio of Compliance for 2% (Medium Enterprises)		5.55%
3.	Amount of Non-Performing Loans		25,447,699,315*
4.	Ratio of Non-Performing Loans to Total Loan Portfolio		19.89%
5.	Amount of Classified Loans and Other Risk Assets		50,529,605,461
6.	General Provision for Loan Losses		1,247,692,722
7.	Specific Provision for Loan Losses		15,625,873,156
8.	Return on Equity (ROE)		10.37%
9.	Amount of DOSRI Loans/Advances		1,955,440,256
10.	Ratio of DOSRI Loans/Advances to Total Loan Portfolio		1.53%
11.	Amount of Past Due DOSRI Loans/Advances		17,996

** Includes Loans Classified as "Loss" which are fully covered by Allowance for Probable Losses amounting to P2,734,227,161.02*

We, ANDRES C. SARMIENTO and MARGARITO B. TEVES of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above Statement of Condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

Sgd. ANDRES C. SARMIENTO
FVP-Controllership Group

Sgd. MARGARITO B. TEVES
President and CEO

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 13th day of October 2003 in the City of Manila, affiants exhibiting to me their Residence Certificate No. 12700389, issued in Manila on January 3, 2003 and Residence Certificate No. 12722279 issued in the City of Manila on January 14, 2003.

CHRISA SHEILA I. PIMENTEL
Notary Public
Until December 31, 2003
PTR No. 1281446
Issued on September 4, 2002
Manila

Doc. No. 415
Page No. 84
Book No. IV
Series of 2003

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION

(Bank and Financial Subsidiaries)
As of September 19, 2003

ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Items	P	4,062,427,444
Due from Bangko Sentral		13,322,343,310
Due from Other Banks		1,773,379,543
Interbank Loans Receivable		13,215,147,000
Trading Account Securities (Net)		50,322,853
Investment in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)		94,308,605,817
Loans and Discounts and Advances (Net)		97,776,921,646
Underwriting Accounts (Net)		45,728,606
Equity Investments (Net)		5,113,435,868
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (Net)		4,914,854,377
Other Assets (Net)		
Property Owned/Acquired		14,474,717,354
Others		11,109,113,510
TOTAL ASSETS	P	260,166,997,328
LIABILITIES		
Demand Deposits	P	78,220,441,562
Savings Deposits		94,167,490,976
Time Deposits		18,494,691,480
Special/Other Deposits		2,363,047,857
Due to Bangko Sentral		142,824,977
Due to Banks		354,527,584
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		1,373,758,579
Bills Payable		
BSP-Rediscounting/Special Programs		736,817,324
Deposits Substitutes		237,058,512
Others		30,102,056,388
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits		3,764,451,954
Other Liabilities		8,097,659,813
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	238,044,827,006
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		
Capital Stock	P	10,200,000,000
Surplus		7,255,558,524
Surplus Reserves		4,279,767,077
Other Capital Accounts		386,844,721
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		22,122,170,322
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	260,166,997,328
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	P	6,116,065,109
Bills for Collection		1,085,048,389
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		8,331,724,780
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Assets Held under Trust and Investment Management Agreements		
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Other Information:

1	Deposits of:		
	a. Government	P	128,512,551,875
	b. Banks		4,454,051,026
	c. Trust Department		300,935,153
2.	List of Bank's Financial Subsidiaries		
	a. LBP Leasing Corporation		
	b. LBP Financial Services SPA		
	c. LBP Remittance Co., USA		

We, ANDRES C. SARMIENTO and MARGARITO B. TEVES of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above Consolidated Statement of Condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

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BUSINESS

Mitsubishi to export Adventure units by '05

By Michelle V. Remo

MITSUBISHI Motors Philippines would begin exporting its popular Mitsubishi-Adventure model to Southeast Asia by 2005.

Mitsubishi announced its plans yesterday following the government's granting of export incentives to the local automotive industry.

Mitsubishi senior vice president Melchor Dizon said in an interview that the company intends to initially export 10,000 units of the Mitsubishi-Adventure model, to comply with government regulations.

The government requires a minimum export volume of 10,000 units for the car manufacturer to avail itself of the export incentives.

Should its plan push through, Mitsubishi would be the second car manufacturer to export completely built-up units after Ford.

Ford Motor Philippines is currently the only car manufacturer that exports CBUs, and has recently pledged to make the Philippines its export hub in the region.

Malacañang yesterday issued an executive order formalizing the grant of export incentives for car companies. The government has approved export incentives worth $400 per CBU for every 10,000 units of exports. The incentive will come in the form of tariff discounts on the imports of CBU raw materials.

Mitsubishi said the export incentives were a big boost to its plan to engage in exports.

Mitsubishi announced its plans during the launch of the Mitsubishi Outlander, a sport utility vehicle that would compete against the Honda CR-V and Toyota Rav-4. The selling price was pegged at P1.27 million per unit.

Dizon said Mitsubishi planned to sell about 1,500 to 2,000 units of Outlander a year.

PPA to develop 10 major ports

By Abigail L. Ho

THE PHILIPPINE Ports Authority would develop 10 of the country's major ports into world-class facilities by 2010.

These include the Manila North Harbor, South Harbor, Manila International Container Terminal and those located in Batangas, Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro, Davao, Ozamiz, General Santos and Zamboanga.

"While other ports are emerging as equally important cargo distribution centers, these 10 ports remain the major gateways, with their levels of operations being reliably used as a barometer of port and economic activities in their respective areas," PPA general manager Alfonso Cusi said in a statement.

He explained that most trading activities take place in these 10 ports, accounting for 92 percent of the total cargo traffic of base ports and about 80 percent of cargo traffic of government ports.

While only 10 ports nationwide had been identified for development, Cusi said this did not mean that other ports in the country would not be given due attention.

The level of development of the other ports, however, would be different from the 10 that would be modernized to be at par with international standards.

"There are other ports which serve as major embarkation and disembarkation points of passengers and those that provide links to the hinterlands. These ports will continue to be developed in accordance with their strategic roles," he said.

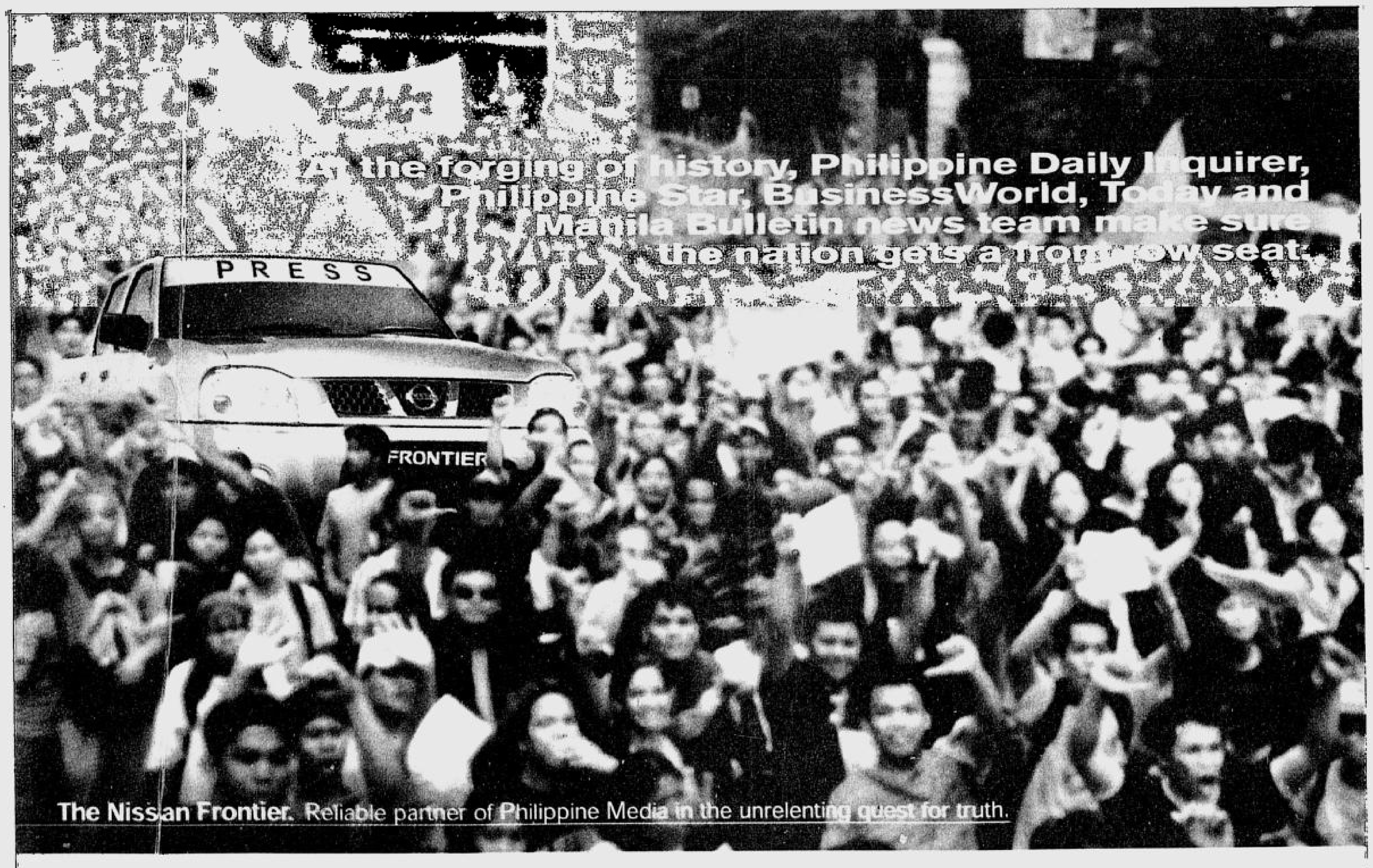
In line with this, the PPA has drawn up a comprehensive port modernization program, which covers the upgrading of major gateways as well as the development of ports in outlying areas.

The port development program also included the establishment of roll on-roll off (Ro-Ro) facilities.

The Department of Transportation and Communications is pushing for the creation of a National Port Master Plan to more efficiently allocate resources for the development of the country's ports.

Due to limited funds for port development, DOTC Assistant Secretary Robert Castanares said earlier that a master plan was needed to be put in place to identify priority projects for funding.

He said that for the past three years, many port modernization projects had taken a back seat due to the lack of funds.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3 YEAR

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MOTORING

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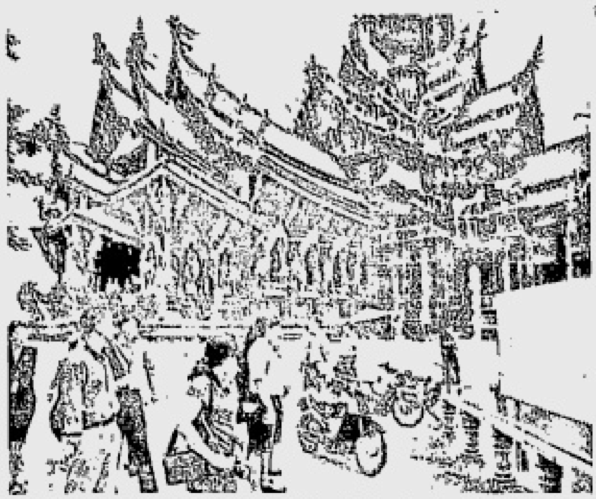
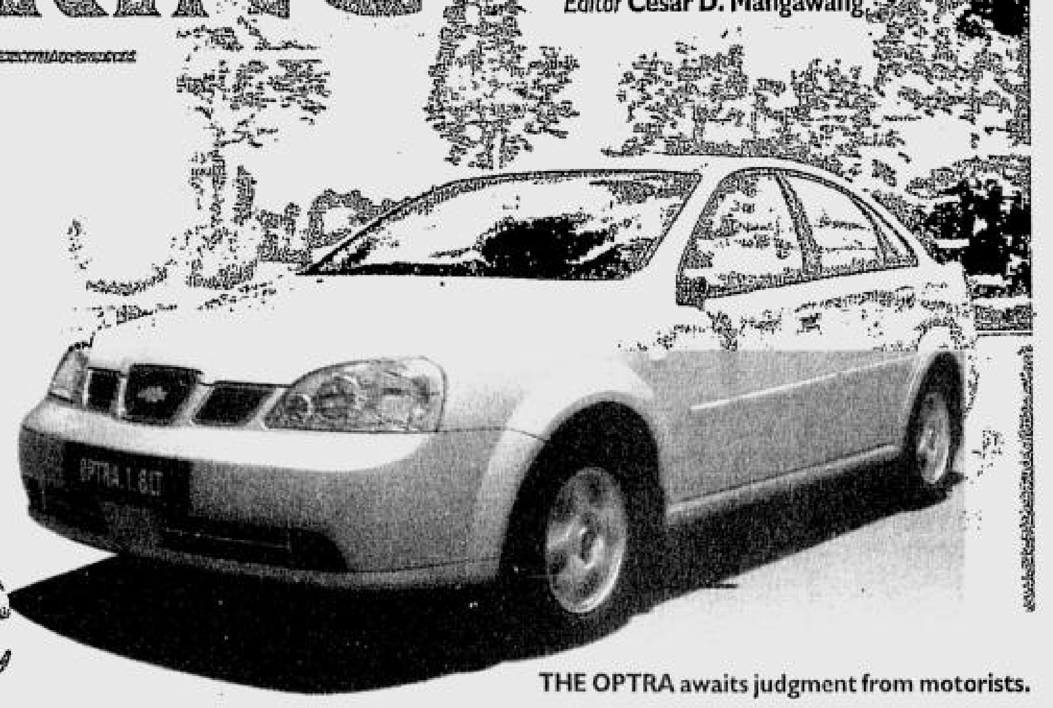
Editor Cesar D. Mangawang



A GLIMPSE of the Wooden Castle in Pattaya

The whiz from tropical forest to wooden castle



THE OPTRA awaits judgment from motorists.

Text and photos by Tessa R. Salazar

(Second of three parts)

WHAT could one do in Thailand in just 200 km? Apparently, a lot, especially when you're on a Chevy Optra.

The General Motors Thailand vehicle assembly center in the Rayong province, where the Optra is born, is the starting point for any Chevy trip from Thailand to any part of Southeast Asia. The $650-million facility boasts of a safety record of more than 20-million hours worked without lost time due to injury or accident.

'Tasting the fruits'

Each motoring reporter present during the GM-sponsored ride-and-drive was given the opportunity to "taste the fruits" of such exacting labor: the Optra 1.6-liter M/T, 1.6-liter A/T, 1.8-liter LS and 1.8-liter LT.

For my part, I chose the most magnificent looking horse in the stable—the A/T 1.8 LT.

But it was not a day to become a speed freak. Not in a country known for its well-tempered locals and right-hand drive cars. The Thai highways are well-paved and wide open, and are designed for speeds well above what Philippine highways impose on its own motorists. But I was driving on a side opposite to what I am used to, and if I didn't keep that in mind constantly, the consequences could be tragic.

As apprehensive as I might have appeared to the everyday Thai motorist, I did not hear one impatient honk from a Thai driver during our sojourn here. The trucks, however, sometimes suddenly shift lanes.

Thoroughly prepared

GM, to its credit, was thorough in its preparation for this ride-and-drive. We were supplied with a road book, complete with information and photos of landmarks. Marshals waved white flags on all crucial intersections. Our convoy of 20 Optras was escorted by motorcycle police.

Inside the Optra unit itself, I noticed GM stripped down its features to the essentials. The gauges looked very simple, and large numbers made quick glances to the instrument panels easy. The LT's horizontal molding in a walnut grain veneer created that "homey" appeal.

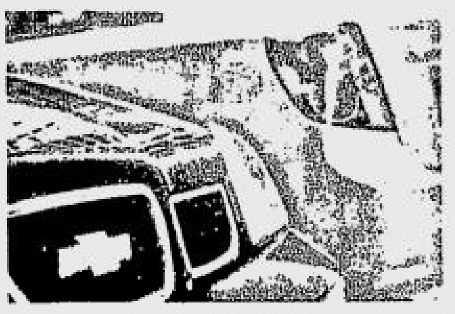
The trunk release, to my surprise is nearly "camouflaged" onto the driver's door.

I was behind the wheel on the first leg of the trip—a 92-km drive from the GM plant to the Classic Forest restaurant Tamnanpar, one of the Ban Pae, Rayong's famous restaurants at the Sukhumvit Road.

'Quiet ride'

When the Optra's makers bragged about the "quiet ride." they meant it. I could say not a creature—inside or outside the Optra—was disturbed as we passed through the lush tropical forest. Reduced noise and vibration could be attributed to the hydraulic mounts for the engine and transmission, and the use of special foam body sealant, among others.

The Optra boasts of the Bosch four-sensor, four-channel ABS system with electronic brake force distribution. Many of us agreed that the EBD, just like airbags, should be standard in all vehicles, and we were glad GM was thoughtful enough to put that in the Optra. A quick look showed the four wheels were equipped with disc brakes, and nine-inch tandem boosters.



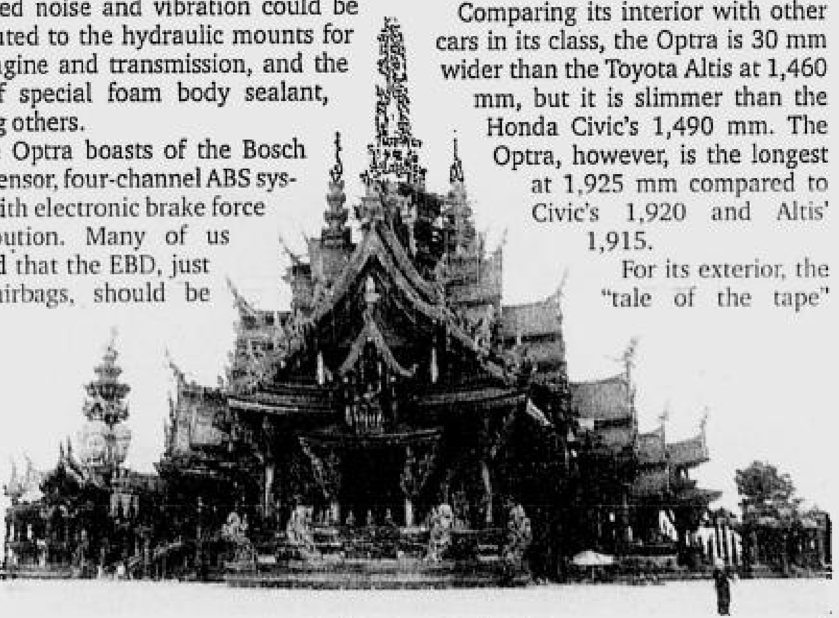
MAKE OR BREAK. The Optra proudly wears the Chevy badge.

Another Optra bragging point is the much-envied suspension, which also happens to be tuned by an engineering firm in England whose aim is to deliver a sportier feel with more precise steering and firm suspension.

Interior

Comparing its interior with other cars in its class, the Optra is 30 mm wider than the Toyota Altis at 1,460 mm, but it is slimmer than the Honda Civic's 1,490 mm. The Optra, however, is the longest at 1,925 mm compared to Civic's 1,920 and Altis' 1,915.

For its exterior, the "tale of the tape" shows the Optra measuring 1,725 mm wide, the Altis 1,705 mm and Civic 1,720 mm. The Optra's length of 4,500 mm, though, is 30 mm shorter than the Altis. The Civic is only 4,435 mm long. The Altis is highest at 1,480 mm, followed by the Optra at 1,445 mm and Civic at 1,440 mm.



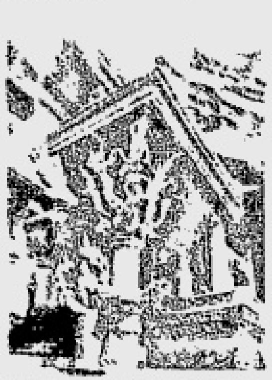
FULL view of The Sanctuary of Truth, Wooden Castle in Pattaya

The Civic tops the wheelbase at 2,620 mm, Optra and Altis both have a wheelbase of 2,600 mm.

Italian auto designer Pininfarina created the exterior look with the words "dynamic" and "aggressive" in mind, with undertones of an unusual greenhouse design employing six windows for added visibility. The glass quarter panel windows at the back sides were noticeable touches.

Both the 1.6 L E-Tec II and the 1.8 L D-Tec engines are equipped with a double overhead camshaft with four cylinders and 16 valves.

Before leaving Pattaya province, we had a quick side trip to the Wooden Palace, also known as the Sanctuary of Truth, where wooden sculptures of celestial bodies and characters of the Chinese supernatural, including the Boddhisattava as viewed by Mahayan Buddhism, abounded. More sculptures and carvings are being added as the palace grows. Its construction, as I understood it, is a perpetual matter.



INTRICATE sculptures

The wooden carvings inside the castle portrayed the steps humanity must go through to reach the ideal world. Its creator portrays these steps through woodcarving depicting the stories from two great epics: the "Mahabharata" and "Ramayana."

Meanwhile, here at home, GM Automobiles Philippines is locked in its own "struggle" to reach an ideal world of large market shares. The epic story here depicts the Optra 1.6L MT and AT clashing with titans Corolla 1.6 E and J variant; Civic VTi, Ford Lynx Ghia, Lancer MX/GLS and Sentra 1.6 GS/DS. Whether the homage to all the gods and other worldly characters at the Sanctuary of Truth can help the Optra here remains to be seen.

Worthy competitor

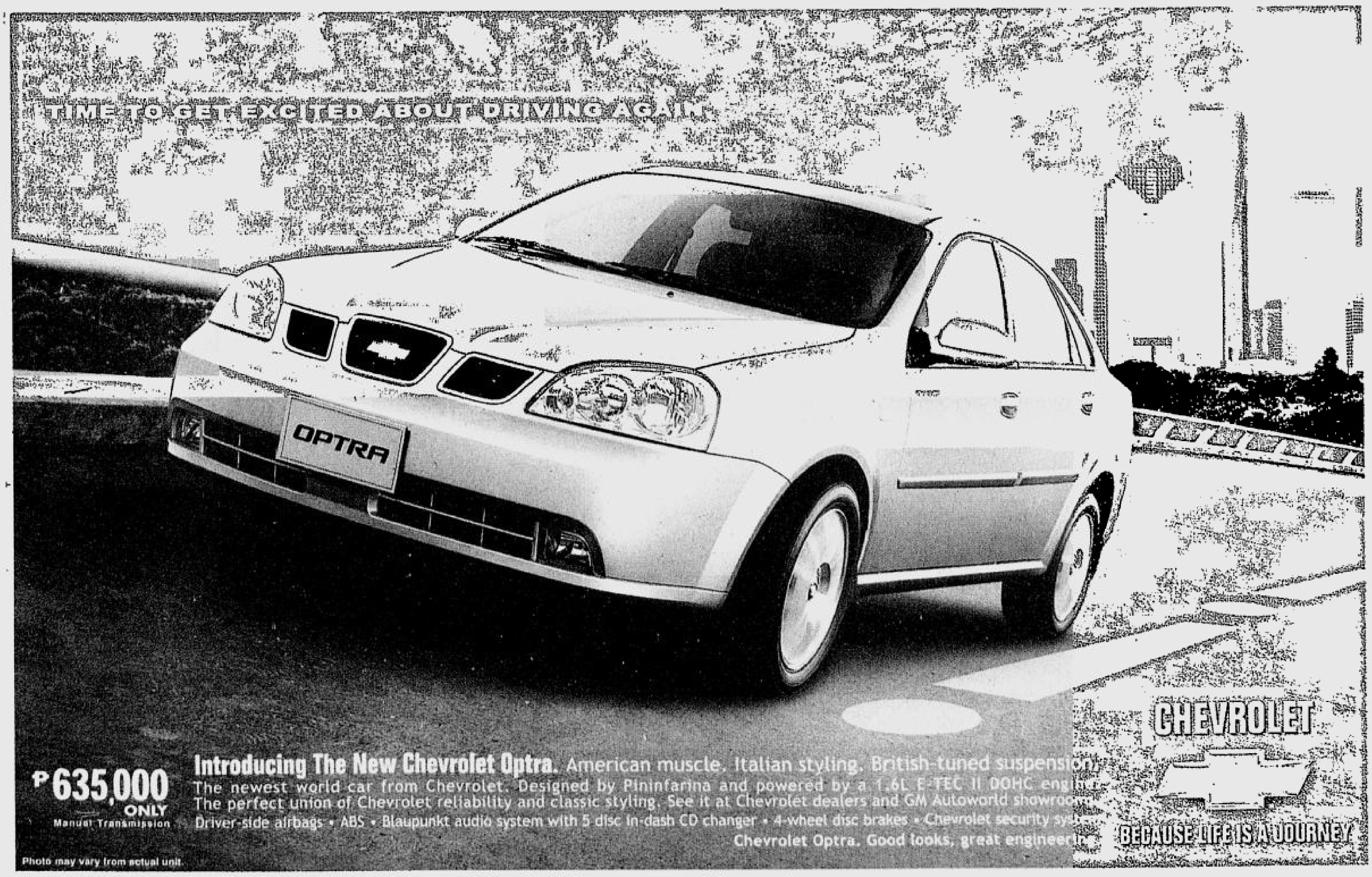
Noticeable in its absence here are the 1.8-liter variants. Whether GM Automobiles Philippines is importing the Optra 1.8L to catch up with the established leader Altis also remains to be seen. For now, GMAP says it is well aware of the sole dominance of Altis in this segment, and the market is wide open for a worthy competitor. Paging Boddhisattava...

GM Automobiles Philippines has seven dealers, four in Metro Manila and three in the provinces of Cebu, Pampanga and Davao. GM returned to the Philippines in 1997, introducing the likes of the Suburban, Tahoe, Silverado, Venture, Optra, Aveo, Zafira, Subaru and Forester as well as the Opel Astra and Tigra.

The Thai trip was truly an enriching experience, for the knowledge gained about the country, its culture and people, and the company I was with for the past few days. Admittedly, though, such ride-and-drive events tend to be more "glitz and glamour" than "down and dirty" in terms of driving tests. When I got back to Manila, I would have to take a closer look and stay longer inside an Optra, and aim my magnifying lens at some aspects of the car where time and circumstance in Thailand prevented me from doing so.

The Optra's name demanded it so.

(Next issue: A closer look at the new kid on the block)



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The MMDA'S 'love letters'

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

IF YOU are a motorist who breaks traffic rules when there is no traffic cop in sight, beware! One of these days, you are bound to receive a "love letter" from the Metro Manila Development Authority and you will have to pay a fine for your transgression. Since April this year, the MMDA has been sending out "No Contact Traffic Apprehension" summonses via first-class registered mail to erring public utility vehicle (PUV) and motorists. The next one may be sent to you.

Without much fanfare or publicity, MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando has caused the installation of 10 Sony video cameras and 32 digital still cameras along major roads in Metro Manila. Most of the cameras are along Edsa while some digicams are snapping photos of traffic violators on C-5, Commonwealth Avenue and España Boulevard.

Violations

MMDA Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios says the cameras record moving violations such as obstruction of traffic, loading and unloading in prohibited zones, disregarding traffic signs and lane markings (especially the yellow lane for buses), violating the unified vehicle reduction or "color coding" scheme and blocking a pedestrian lane. Illegal parking and overspeeding are not included, says Vergel de Dios, since illegally parked vehicles are towed away and Edsa traffic conditions rarely allow motorists to drive fast. Besides, radar, not cameras, is the equipment normally used to monitor the speed of a motor vehicle on the road.

The format of MMDA's letter is simple: after the name and address of the driver/car owner or the bus company and the case reference number comes the information: "Pursuant to MMDA Resolution No. 02-49, Series of 2002 on 'No Contact Traffic Apprehension' Program, below is a photo of a Vehicle with Plate No. ----- committing a traffic violation along (name of street or intersection) last (date). Wherefore your driver is hereby charged of (the violation) with a fine of -------- Pesos Only."

Catching

Below the information are two color photos: one catching the vehicle in the act of transgression and another showing the license plate number. Each photo carries the date and exact time of the violation. After the certifying signature of the cameraman traffic officer comes the order, all caps, to the addressee to pay the fine to the MMDA's TVR Management Division within seven days after receipt of the summons. If a driver wants to contest the charge against him, he must still pay under protest before proceeding to the MMDA Traffic Adjudication Board.

Although the No Contact Traffic Apprehension Program was implemented without a public hearing and mainly affects bus drivers, the bus operators are not opposing it. "The program is okay with them since they can confront the driver with the evidence and the driver cannot claim that the traffic officer was only after grease money," Vergel de Dios says. "The benefit of this program is that it eliminates any contact between the traffic officer and the driver, so there is no chance of a bribe taking place. The MMDA's objective is to instill in the minds of drivers that even without a traffic officer in sight, their traffic violations will be witnessed and recorded and they will be fined." Eventually, this should bring about some discipline and order in Metro Manila's notoriously chaotic traffic.

THE "LOVE letter" from the MMDA includes two color photos. Each photo carries the date and exact time of the violation.

Vergel de Dios adds that since the No Contact Traffic Apprehension Program does not entail confiscation of the driver's license, MMDA Chair Fernando hopes it will get rid entirely of the practice of confiscating drivers' licenses. Although the traffic fines are small, ranging from P150 to P200, in the program's first six months the MMDA collected P684,210 from traffic violators.

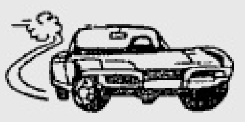
Impounded

When a motorist or bus operator ignores two MMDA summonses, the car or bus involved will be impounded. While it is easy for the MMDA to impound PUVs since they follow the same routes every day, impounding a private car is a more tedious process, Vergel de Dios admits. The MMDA has to trace the name and ad-

THE MMDA'S/ C4

Toyota Classics: Food for the soul

FULL TANK



Al Mendoza

LIKE last year when it donated a substantial amount of money to Tabang Mindanaw, Toyota again did it this year when it gave Gawad Kalinga P1 million to highlight the occasion of the Toyota Classics (A World of Harmony) last week at the CCP Main Theater.

It was a poignant moment as usual, with Gawad Kalinga executive director Tony Meloto receiving a giant check of P1 million from Nobuharu Tabata, president of the Toyota Motor Philippines Corporation, symbolic of Toyota's consistent altruistic efforts through the years.

Among those present in the stage to witness the turnover rites were Executive Secretary Albert Romulo, the German ambassador to the Philippines and other dignitaries, and Alfred Ty, the young and dashing executive of TMPI. I almost didn't recognize Alfred, who has really matured and grown into a man from a kid with milk fat only some years back.

* * *

Last year at the Meralco Theater, Toyota unraveled the Cadaques Orchestra to perform before an awed audience that was swept off its feet by the musicians' haunting rendition of chamber playing under the baton of world-famed Philippe Entremont of France. Guitar virtuoso Jose Maria Gallardo del Rey rendered an extended performance to earn applause that rang all the way to Cubao.

If Broadway show is food for the brain and ballet uplifts the spirit, classical music is food for the soul.

Since Vince Socco, the topnotch Toyota man now Toyota's main man in Singapore and its Asean environs, first sent me a ticket to the Toyota Classics in 1993, I have since become a regular in the almost annual Toyota event. Toyota's guest in 1993 was the New York Symphonic Ensemble, with the supremely talented Mamoru Takahara conducting. The following year, it was the turn of the Sapporo Symphony Orchestra to perform, with Kazuyoshi Akiyama wielding the baton and Tomoko Kato as the featured violinist. Like the previous year, the 1994 show was also a smash hit. Then came the hiatus of five years.

* * *

A twin highlight of last week's concert was the brilliant handling of the violin by Susanna Henkel and the impeccable interpretation of Mozart's "Ah, ich fuh's, es ist verschwunden" from Die Zauberflote and Bizet's Micaela aria, "Je dis que rien ne m'epouvante" from Carmen by Filipino soprano Maria Rachelle Gerodias.

Henkel, 28, whose father is a German married to a Japanese, began playing the violin at age two. Today, she is known as one of the most remarkable violinists of her generation. A genius in her own right.

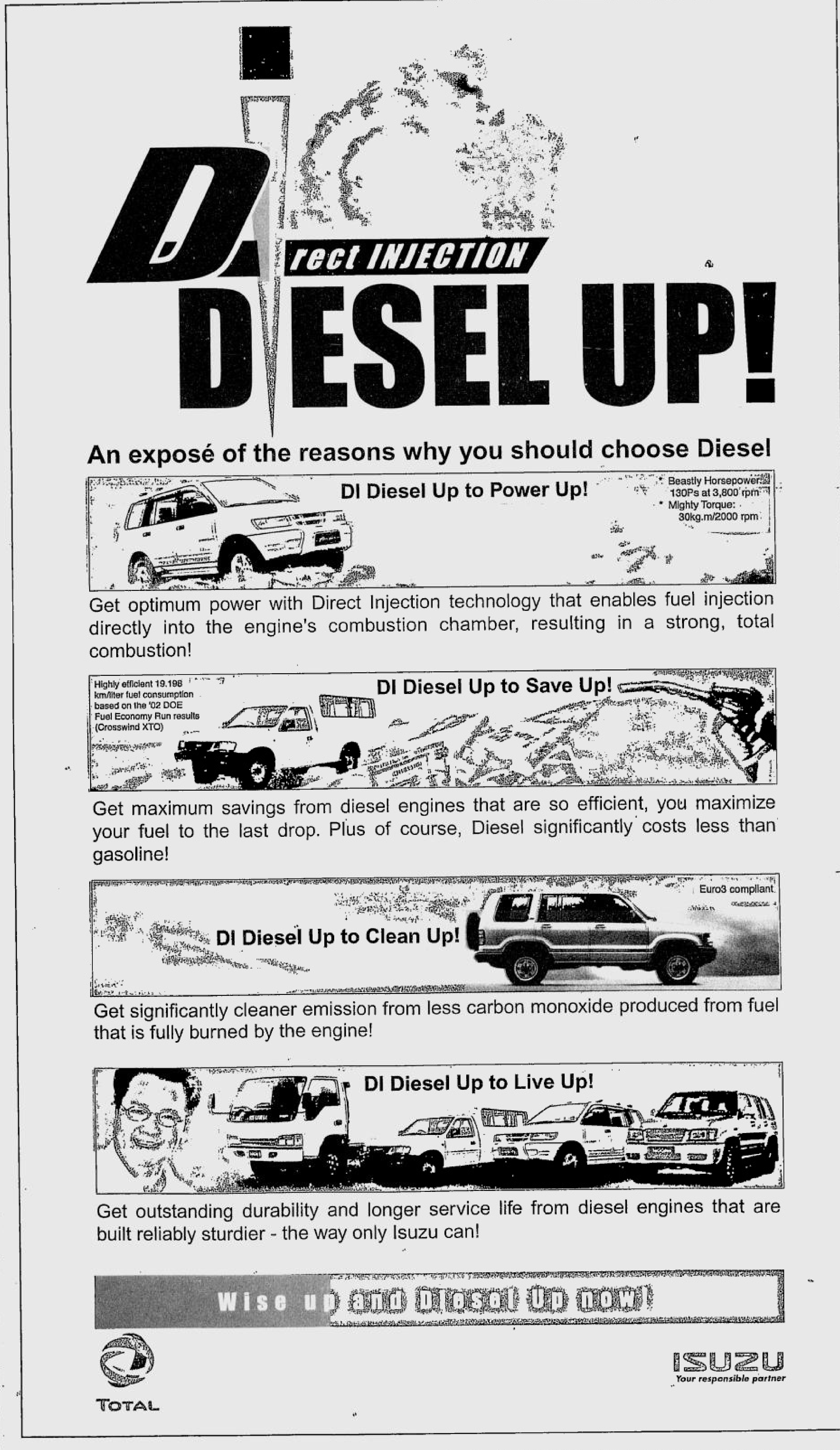
The very much single Gerodias, a product of UST under Prof. Gloria Dizon-Coronel, was a scholar at the famed Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, where she received a master's degree in voice performance and literature with a performer's certificate to boot from Prof. Masako Toribara. While in New York, she won first prize in the Civic Morning Musicals Vocal Competition in Syracuse in 1995.

* * *

The Toyota Classics was revived in 2000 with the coming of the Nagoya Philharmonic Orchestra, with Tesuji Honna as the conductor and Regina Renzova the soprano. In 2001, because of the 9/11 tragedy in New York City, the visit here of the London Festival Orchestra was scrapped. Then came last year's performance by the Cadaques Orchestra, which was highlighted by the performance of the highly acclaimed Coke Bolipata.

And now this year, the coming of the Northeast German Philharmonic Orchestra. It is interesting to note that the orchestra, the first-ever orchestra from Germany to perform here, has a Japanese for a conductor, Koji Kawamoto. Only 31 years old, Kawamoto exudes an air of confidence seen only among veteran baton wielders. In this fifth year of his stint as guest of the Toyota Classics, Kawamoto proved to be the most applauded conductor of them all, the major reason being that he spices up his genius with a wellspring of wit and humor. He was so enthusiastically cheered on that Tabata-san oozed with admiration himself over the way the audience received Kawamoto.

TOYOTA/ C4



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Stuck in traffic and bored? Talk to your car

By Charles E. Buban

REMEMBER actor David Hasselhoff talking (and getting answers in return) to his super-customized Trans Am car (Knight Industries Two Thousand) in the '80s TV classic "Knight Rider"?

The hit series elevated the relationship between man and his car to entirely new levels of excitement and which, probably gave BMW engineers in Germany to develop a real-life version of KITT.

In fact, BMW's research vehicles in its ConnectedDrive program are already "talking" to one another by means of WirelessLAN communication technology, exchanging information on current traffic conditions quickly and directly from car to car.

"'Talking cars' are now being developed at BMW to give motorists of the future an even more intelligent and individual vehicle offering even more safety and driving comfort," informed Lito German of BMW Group Philippines corporate communications.

Assistance systems

The BMW ConnectedDrive is a concept that networks the driver, the vehicle and the surroundings by means of telematics (combination of telecommunications and computing), online and driver assistance systems.

With this development, cars will not only talk to each other but communicate as well what they just gathered to their respective drivers.

Mobile network provider

Installation of Bluetooth (a technology that connects electronic devices to each other within short distances) will make this concept a reality and turn the car of the future into a mobile information platform.

Bluetooth offers motorists a wide range of new options and opportunities such as:

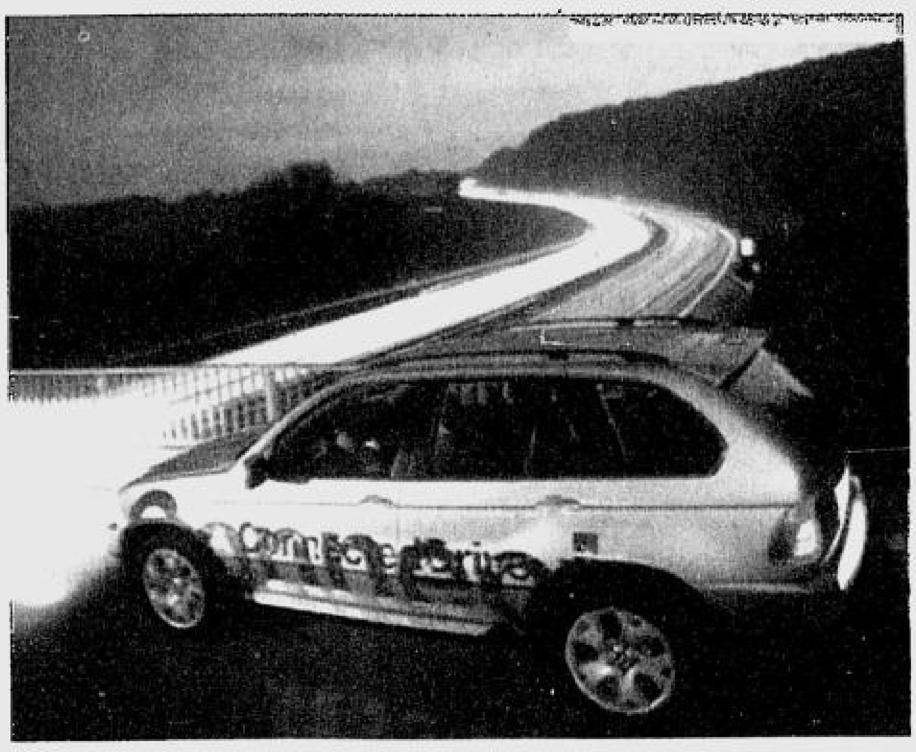
- The possibility to exchange route data and additional travel information between laptops, the navigation system or the car telephone (as well as the driver's mobile phone)
- The option to download telephone numbers, addresses and navigation maps from an organizer database through the car telephone or navigation system
- The possibility to update the driver's personal timetable
- Use of mobile phone inside the car with hands-free operation
- The option to play music from a portable MP3 player though the car's hi-fi system
- Keeping an electronic logbook conveniently also outside of the car with a personal digital assistant.

Easing traffic

BMW showed combining these technologies can be used in everyday driving situations.

For example, whenever a car is caught in a traffic jam, it will automatically transmit information within a matter of seconds to all vehicles in the area to help other drivers decide to look for a less congested routes or diversion roads.

Stated BMW AG board member development Dr. Burkhard Göschel during the First German Telematics Forum in Berlin: "Talking cars will reduce traffic congestion and optimize the flow of traffic in future."


SOON cars will be able to talk to one another to access traffic and road conditions, and in return provide drivers a better picture of what lies ahead of him.

Traffic info

According to Göschel, BMW is promoting the development of this technology and integrating other manufacturers in the process in order to develop a uniform standard for the exchange of information.

"If only 10 percent of vehicles on the road are able to communicate directly with one another, we would have the benefit of traffic information throughout entire cities," he said.

But aside from just aiding in traffic management, BMW ConnectedDrive will also have a great impact on road safety.

This is possible by analyzing the wide range of information available from each vehicle together with its current location and road speed.

Weather, road visibility

Today's BMWs are able to provided data from its antilock brake system and Dynamic Stability Control (which responds instantly to any traction loss by controlling power and braking at each wheel individually).

From these existing technologies, BMW engineers will combine other data that the car provides like the current status of its low and high beams, fog lamps, hazard warning flashers, and brake lights to be able to give input on weather and road visibility.

These collated data would then be used to identify warning zones, such as slippery roads in a location, or traffic jams ending in a bend.

Even the activation of the windshield wipers and the temperature measured by the outside thermometer can provide a clear reference to road conditions.

Sender, receiver or router

Also with BMW ConnectedDrive, each vehicle would be able to take on the role of sender, receiver, or router depending on the traffic situation.

The big advantage, BMW believes, is that ad-hoc networks would be able to organize themselves, being virtually unlimited in their range, thanks to "multihopping" and not requiring any kind of infrastructure.

While the program is still in its development stage, BMW assures motorists that it is anticipating the needs of tomorrow's drivers and ConnectedDrive is just one of the many ways that the company is working on today.

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The MMDA'S

From page C2

dress of the car owner through the records of the Land Transportation Office and by the time this is done, the car may have been sold. In any case, the MMDA sends the list of summons-ignoring traffic violators to the LTO so that when the violator tries to renew his license or the registration of his car, he will have to obtain an MMDA clearance first.

Aside from this, an alarm is sent to MMDA traffic officers to keep an eye open for the license plate, make and model of the car to be impounded. The MMDA has 2,500 traffic enforcers working on two shifts from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. From 10 p.m. to 6 a.m., 30 MMDA motorcycle units patrol Metro Manila. So if you receive an MMDA love letter, don't ignore it.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: The best way to get back on your feet—miss a car payment.

Toyota Classics

From page C2

* * *

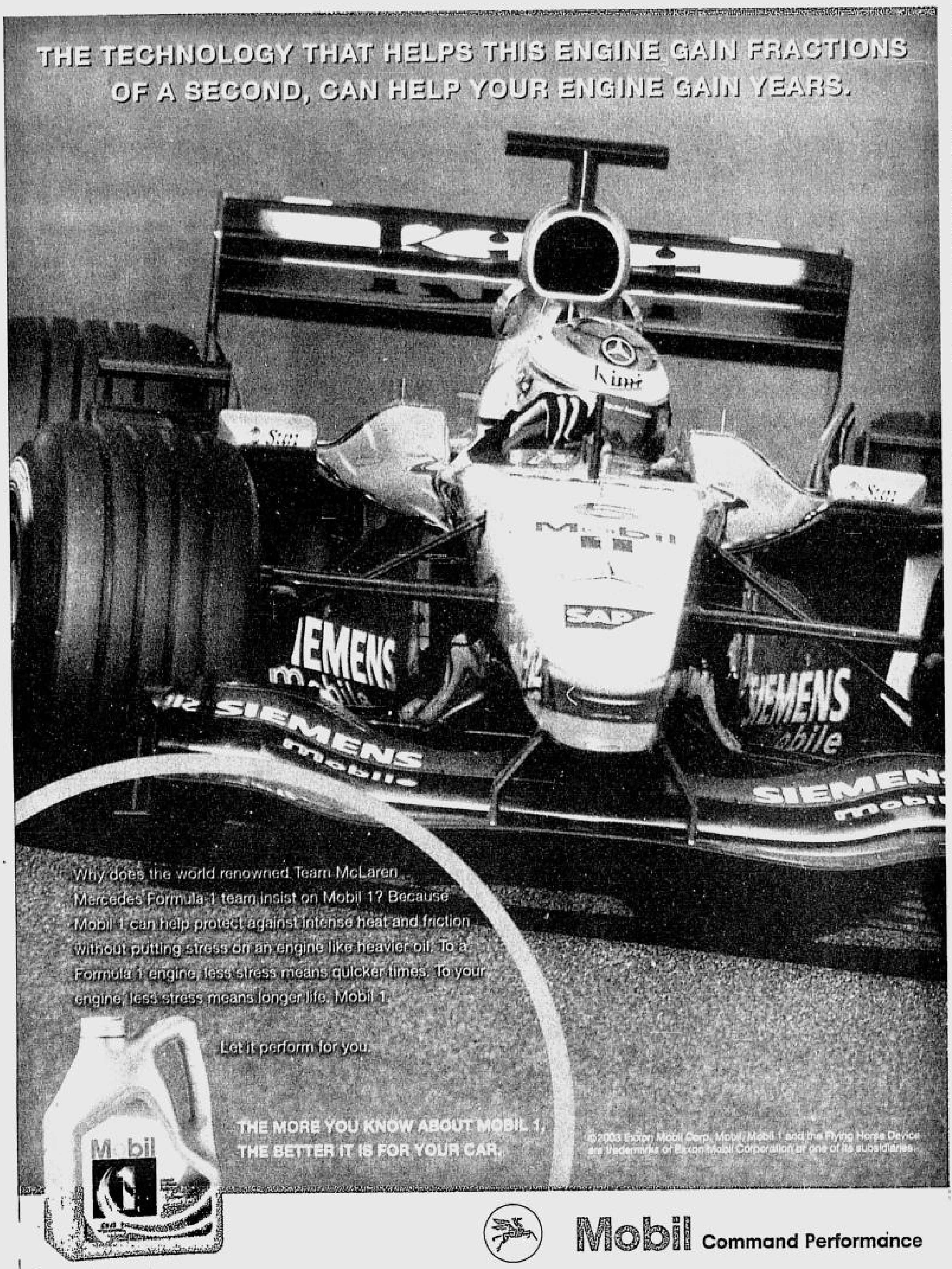
After graduating from the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music in 1995, Kawamoto studied conducting under the world-renowned masters like Hiroshi Wakasugi, Hiroyuki Odano, Francis Travis, Gustav Meier and Sergiu Celibidache. Even before he could graduate from the university, he won third place in the prestigious 10th Tokyo International Music Competition in 1994. Right after graduation, he began conducting the Tokyo City Philharmonic Orchestra, The Osaka Philharmonic Orchestra and the Kyushu Symphony Orchestra- and he wasn't even 30 then. The genius in him quickly surfaced with his baton technique and his musical sense is highly acclaimed worldwide.

In May 2001, the big break came for Kawamoto. After appearing at the Theatre Vorpommern in Northeast Germany to conduct the Northeast German Philharmonic Orchestra in the opera gala concert celebrating the 100th death anniversary of Verdi, his concert debut in Germany keyed his appointment as the principal conductor of the theater for the 2001-2002 season. He has since become a mainstay there.

I can't wait to see next year's Toyota Classics, truly an evening for the soul.

* * *

QUOTE ME: Music, whether Filipino or African, is the most timeless language of all.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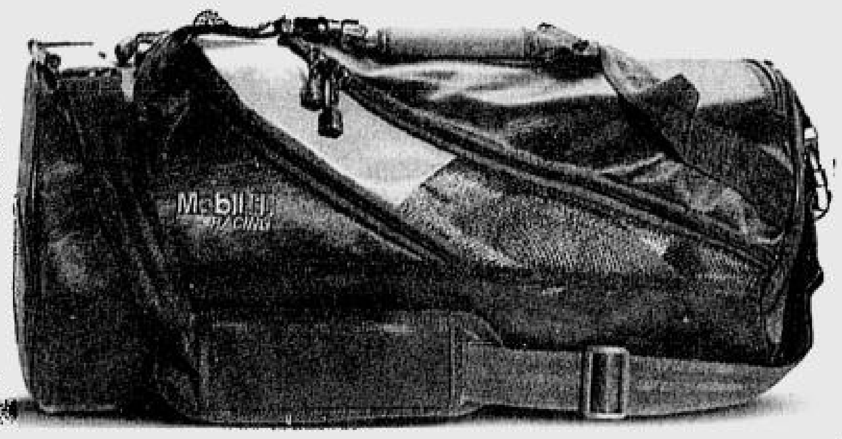

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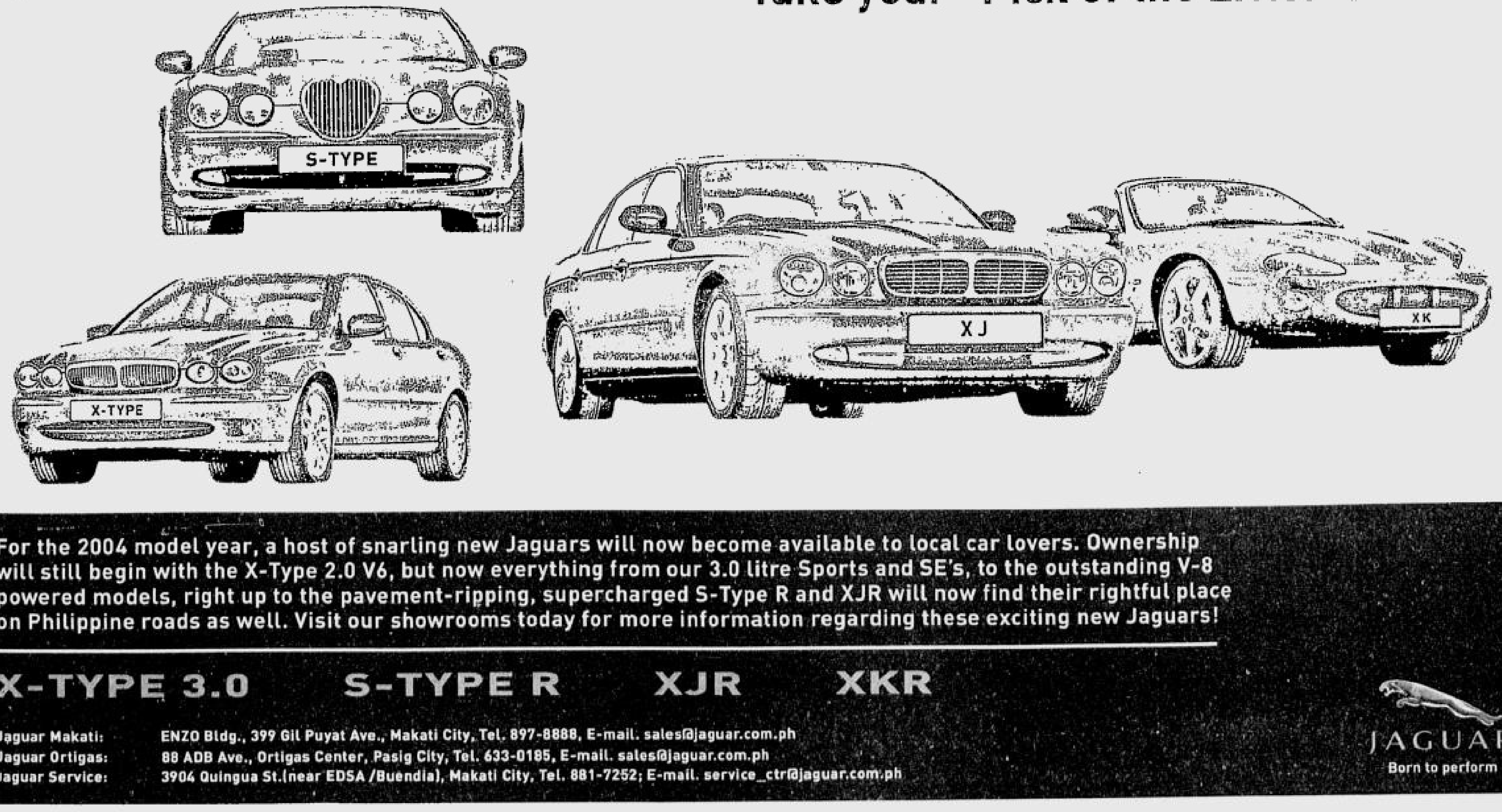

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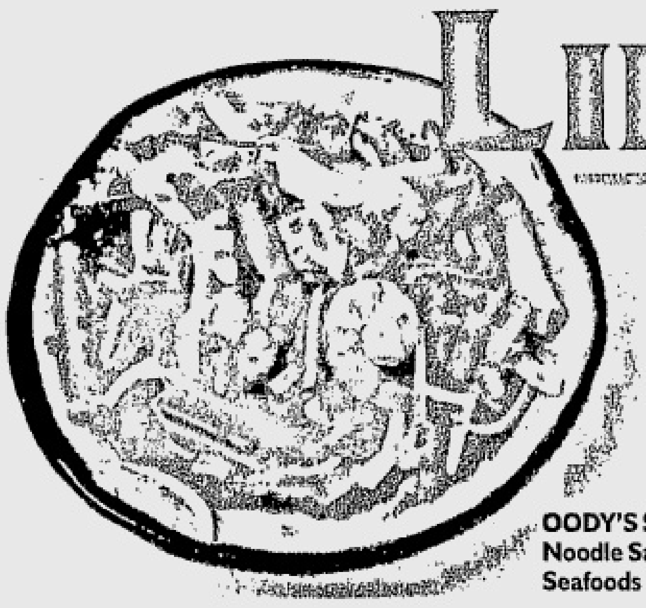

OODY'S Spicy Chinese Noodle Salad with Seafoods

The food at Oody's is contemporary Asian, but not fusion

QC gets oodles of goodies with new restaurant

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Rudy Esperas

ASIAN flavors are taking the world by storm and among those that are making big waves in the gastronomic scene are Thai and Vietnamese cuisines.

Oriental cooking stimulates the taste buds and delights the eyes with the use of spices like lemon grass, curry and chilies. It seems reasonable to assume that's the reason that, after only a year of serving modern Asian delights, Oody's restaurant opened recently its second outlet in Quezon City.

Located on Tomas Morato (tel. 9203871), the city's restaurant strip, Oody's Quezon City is bigger than its Greenbelt 3 sister.

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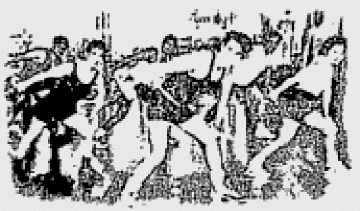

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Holiday cooking

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Oct. 17: Christmas Hams and Bread—Hams: Coffee, Rum, Apple Mustard, Vanilla, Sugar Cane. Bread: Focaccia Variations

Oct. 20: Festive Chocolate Desserts—Baked Alaska, Butche de Noel, Caramel Chocolate Cake with roasted fruit and macadamias, Fruit Mousse Filled Brazo with Chocolate Truffle Ganache, Warm Citrus Poppy Seed Souffle Cake with chocolate centers, Squash Cake with white chocolate cream

Oct. 22 (morning): Porchetta Y Cochinillo Roast Suckling Pig done two ways, Italian and Spanish Style with soup, salad, side dish and dessert recipes; Special class P2,800+

Oct. 22 (afternoon): Treats as gifts—Caramel Popcorn, Honey Crunch Popcorn, Macadamia Nut Brittle, Butterscotch Dipped Homemade Marshmallows, Pannettone with fruit cream, Reggie's Decadent Fruit Cake, Gourmet Yema (two kinds), Polvoron (two kinds), Meringue, Pastillas (two kinds), Lengua de Gato; Special class P2,800+ plus ingredients

Oct. 24: Reggie's Ultimate Roasting Collection—Beef Roast with bone marrow "bulalo" sauce served with Cappuccino Oyster Rockefeller Soup, Roast Chicken with maple ginger glaze with Chorizo and Homemade Corn Bread Stuffing, Honey Roasted Lamb served with Curried Vegetable Couscous, Fruit Chutney, Cilantro, Yogurt and Arugula Salad, Roast Duck with chestnut stuffing and delicious Plum Sauce served with Crispy Duck Confit and Blue Cheese Salad, Maple Turkey with mustard gravy served with Apple Risotto; Special class P2,800 plus ingredients

Oct. 27: Carrot Cakes: Delicious Carrot, Carrot-Walnut, Carrot Orange, Carrot-Banana, Carrot Raisin, Carrot-Apple

Oct. 29 (morning) Christmas Roasts and Side Dishes: Christmas Goose with berry sauce and chestnut cream, Brined Roast Turkey with fruit sauce and wild rice stuffing, Prime Rib with Mixed Pepper Crust with wine gravy, Roast Leg of Lamb with Fruit and Mint Chutney. Side Dishes—Caviar Cocktail, Lobster and Sweet Potato Soup, Salad of Foie Gras seared in maple syrup, Roasted Vegetables in Squash Baskets, Buche de Noel (Christmas Log), Christmas Champagne Punch; Special class P2,800+ plus ingredients

Oct. 29 (afternoon): Classic Spanish Tapas—Learn 12 Authentic Spanish Tapas, Tortilla Española, Gambas Al Ajillo, Chiperones En Su Tintato, Fried Seafood with Gazpacho Sauce.

WINSENIA of Germany recently introduced its best-selling chocolate hazelnut brands called the "Seven Chocolatey Deadly Sins," together with their variants. Call 8078272 or email wizgic@i-manila.com.ph.

Magic from the can

By Dorothy MJ Ferreria
Contributor

CANNED tuna is a popular item in almost everybody's grocery list. It is big among kids as a sandwich spread for *baon*. Tuna in water has an even bigger following among health buffs as a source of precious protein. Here are more ideas on how to integrate tuna in your meal preparation.

Baked Open-faced Tuna Triangles

loaf bread
¾ c softened butter or margarine
1 bar cream cheese
½ c mayonnaise
¼ tsp garlic powder
¼ tsp mustard
salt and pepper to taste
½ c chopped spring onions
2 cans tuna in water, well-drained
2 bars grated quickmelt cheese

Using a finely serrated knife, trim off the crusts of the bread. Cut each piece diagonally into four equal pieces as triangles. Brush the surface with softened butter or margarine and arrange on cookie sheets, with their buttered surface facing up. Bake at 375 °F for approximately 10 minutes or until the bread feels fairly dry.

Using an electric mixer, beat together the cream cheese, mayonnaise and seasonings. Beat until creamy. Using a rubber scraper, blend in the onions and canned tuna.

Spread about 2 tbsp of the mixture on each toast. Top with a generous amount of grated cheese and re-bake for about 10 minutes more or until the cheese begins to brown. Serve piping hot.

Tuna Croquettes with Garlic Mayo

¼ c butter
¼ c finely chopped onions
6 tbsp sifted all-purpose flour
½ c pure full-cream evaporated milk
½ c water
salt and pepper to taste
1 egg yolk
2 cans tuna in water, well-drained
all-purpose flour
beaten egg
Japanese breadcrumbs (*panko*)
Garlic mayo:
¾ c bottled mayonnaise
½ tsp garlic powder
1 tsp olive oil (optional)
black pepper to taste

Heat the butter in a saucepan. Add the onions and sauté until transparent. Add the flour and mix well. As soon as the butter mixture has absorbed the flour, pour in the evaporated milk, the water, the salt and pepper. Continue to cook, stirring continuously until slightly thick.

Add about two spoonfuls of the hot mixture to the egg yolk and mix well. Pour this mixture back to the saucepan. Continue to cook until very thick. Turn off the heat and stir in the well-drained tuna. Transfer the mixture to a platter and spread thinly. Chill for at least an hour or until easy to handle.

Form the chilled mixture into mini patties. Coat with flour; dip in beaten eggs and then roll in breadcrumbs. Deep-fry until golden brown. Drain in paper towels and serve with the prepared mayo.

For the mayo, mix the ingredients required in a mixing bowl. Keep chilled.

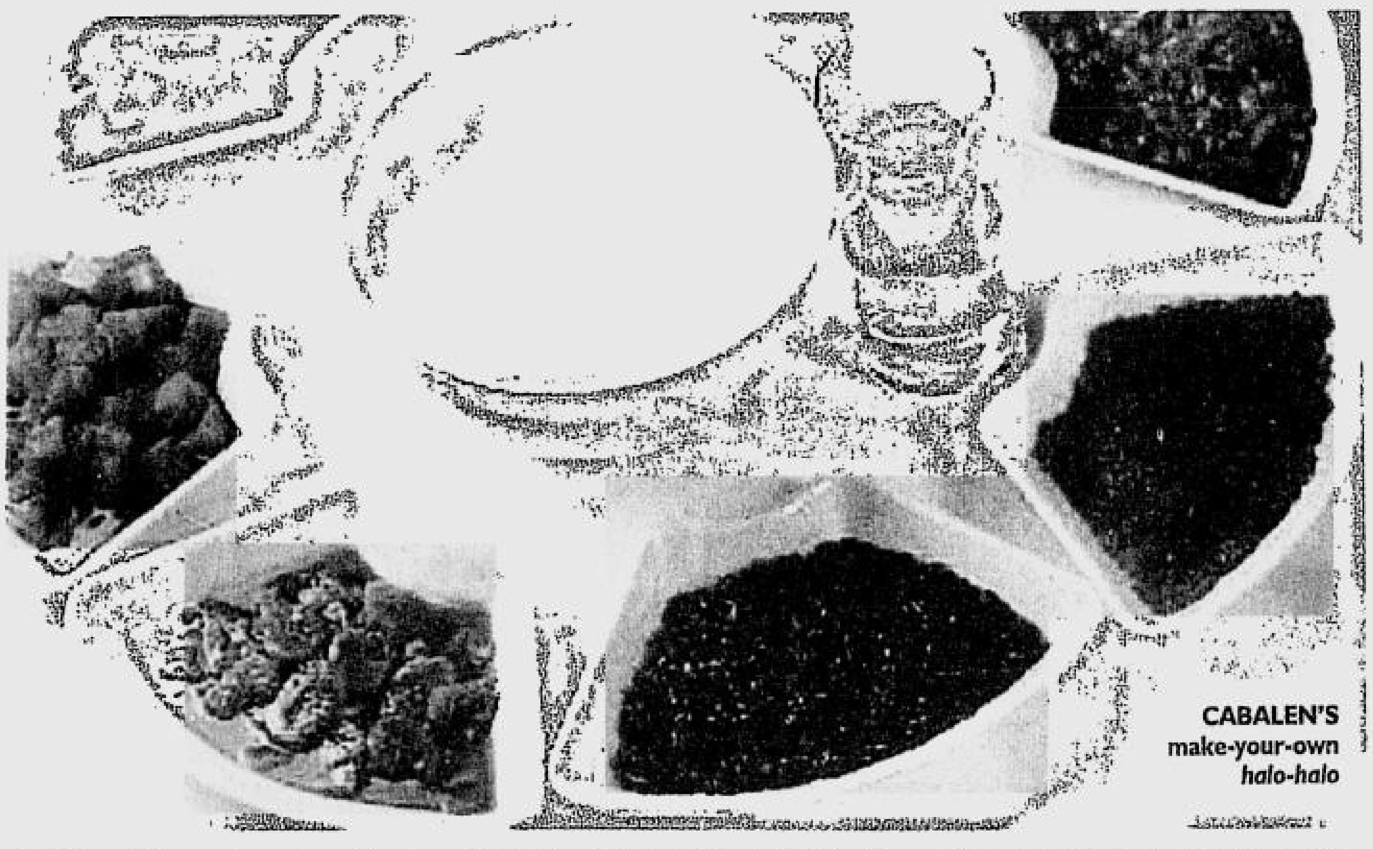
Dorothy MJ Ferreria offers cooking, baking and cake decorating classes at Dorothy's Cooking School in Quezon City. Call 7217735 or e-mail dorothycookingschool@yahoo.com.

	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
MONDAY	Cereal and milk Bread Butter, peanut butter, cheese spreads and fruit jam Canned Vienna sausage Coffee or chocolate Bananas and yogurt	Clear soup Chicken *adobo* with pineapple tidbits *Guisadong gulay* Rice Banana cake	*Nilagang baka na may patatas at repolyo* Rice Canned fruit cocktail with ice
TUESDAY	Ham and cheese omelet Bread Coffee, chocolate or fruit juice *Atis*	Tuna croquettes with garlic mayo *Adobong kangkong* Rice Papaya shake	*Pancit sotanghon* *Lumpiang shanghai* *Leche flan*
WEDNESDAY	Steamed rice Beef *tapa* Coffee, chocolate or fruit juice	Chicken *afritada* Rice *Buko* gelatin	Instant crab and corn soup Pork steak *Guisadong chicharo* *Atis*
THURSDAY	Waffles or pancakes with butter and maple syrup Crispy bacon Coffee, chocolate or iced tea Papaya	Shrimp *halabos* Vegetable chopsuey Rice Sweetened *nata de coco*	Spaghetti Garlic bread Fried chicken wings Ripe mango ala mode
FRIDAY	Hotdog Bread Butter or sandwich spread Coffee or chocolate Ripe mango and cottage cheese	Instant onion soup Pork *menudo* *Pandesal* Sliced oranges	Baked Open-faced Tuna Triangles Turbo roast chicken Buttered vegetables Rice Cheesecake
SATURDAY	*Taho* Bottled *tuyo* Assorted bread Butter and cheese Coffee, chocolate or fruit juice	Steamed chicken Vegetable chopsuey Fried *bihon* Almond jelly	*Kare kare* Rice Maja blanca
SUNDAY	Garlic rice *Longganiza* Fried eggs Coffee, hot chocolate or iced tea	Tossed greens with vinegar and oil dressing Tuna spaghetti Roast beef Garlic bread Cream puff	Chicken *binakol* Vegetable *lumpia* Rice Fresh fruit platter

Now it's eat-all-you-can 'merienda'

DINING OUT

CABALEN Restaurant, the premier buffet restaurant, now offers an eat-all-you-can, eat-all-you-want *merienda* 2-5 p.m. Monday to Friday. For only P75, customers can enjoy famous Filipino *merienda* like *sampelot, turon, dinuguan at puto, biko, pitchi-pitchi, gelatin, okoy, palitaw sa latik, pancit palabok* and, the newest addition, Mix-your-own Chicken Mami. The regular buffet of over 50 sumptuous dishes at lunch and dinner is also offered at Cabalen Katipunan Avenue, West Avenue, SM North Edsa, SM City Manila, SM Megamall, Robinsons Place Ermita, Robinsons Starmills Pampanga, Glorietta 3, Brickroad Area Sta. Lucia East Grandmall and Harrison Village Square Manila. Visit www.cabalen.com.ph.



CABALEN'S make-your-own *halo-halo*

KIMPURA Japanese Restaurant celebrates its 33rd year this month with its 30% Less on More Dishes promo. Included are *menrui* (noodles), until Oct. 18; sushi items, Oct. 20-25; and teppanyaki dishes, Oct. 27-31. This special treat is available for dine-in, lunch and dinner. Kimpura is located at 2/L, Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati City (8932307, 8924456) and Greenhills Shopping Center, San Juan (7218816/721/8869).

BISTRO Remedios celebrates its 20th year with the launch of its open grill section called Afrodisia Grill. The restaurant has outlets in Malate, Manila and Greenhills, San Juan (5217601).

HOLIDAY Inn Galleria Manila's Raphael Café serves Afternoon Delight until Oct. 31. Fresh Oyster Bar, Raclette Cheese of Mountain Valais, Churros con Chocolate and Hot Grilled Sandwiches make up the café's offerings. Call 6337111.

AKU CAFÉ and Diner offers ribs, crepes, coffee, cakes and sushi. Aku's outlets are located at N.S. Amoranto St. corner Speaker Perez, QC; Del Monte Avenue, corner Sto. Domingo Avenue, Millennium Bldg., Makati Avenue; Masangkay, Binondo; and Imperial Palace, Timog. Call 3676220/3674253/09178355584.

DUSIT Hotel Nikko celebrates Oktoberfest the Fiesta San Miguel way until Oct. 31. Enjoy O'Beer Flowing, all-you-can-drink freshly brewed San Miguel beer, Monday-Saturday, 5:30 p.m-1 a.m. Call 8673333.

EDSA Shangri-La's Summer Palace has the Live Crab Festival until Oct. 31. Featured are Fried Flower Crab in Chinese wine or with ginger and spring onion, Crab Soup with vegetables, Crab Congee, Steamed Crab with garlic or glutinous rice, Fried Flower crab with bitter gourd, Steamed Crab with glass noodles, Fried Crab with XO sauce, black pepper sauce or Szechuan sauce. The Lobby Lounge presents Chocolate High Tea until Oct. 26, featuring canapes, fresh fruits, selection of imported cheeses plus refills on brewed coffee and tea. Call 6347373/6338888.

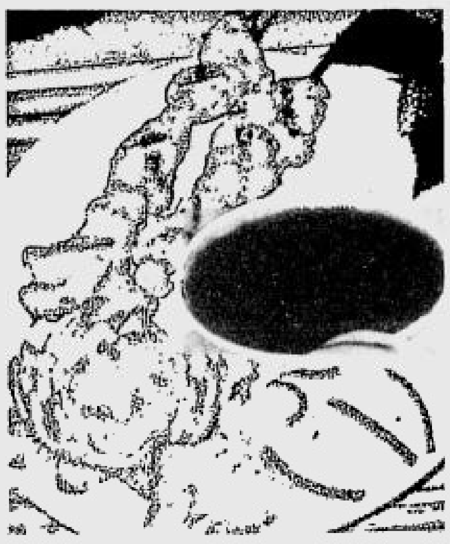
PALMS Country Club, located at Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang, marks Oktoberfest at Café Asiana Verdana. On Oct. 26, 5 p.m., there'll be a Palms Halloween party. Call 7717171.

CRAVINGS on Katipunan Avenue, Loyola Heights, QC, celebrates its 15th year with activities, treats and promos the whole month of October. The Great Rollback Deal is offered on Oct. 18-19; and a salad eating contest, Oct. 25-26. Call 4264828/29 or 38.

ILUSTRADO celebrates its 14th anniversary and Spanish month in Manila with Catorze, a 14-day food and wine festival highlighting the flavors of Spain. Ongoing until Oct. 27, the event features 14 items on the menu, 14 raffle prizes for lucky diners and sale of 14 Torres wines and spirits at discounted prices. Call 5273674/75.

CASCADA located at Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati celebrates its first anniversary with special food promo until Nov. 6. Cascada's specialties include the Deep Fried Seafood Salad Maki and the Skewer Sampler (which features seven different varieties of skewers like Tuna Satay and Chicken Yakitori.

BRAVO! Ristorante Italiano presents pastas, pizzas, risottos and champagne coolers, concoctions of Italian sparkling wine and fresh juice. Bravo! Ristorante Italiano has outlets at Adriatico St., Malate and Festival Mall, Alabang. Call 8503904/8503991 (Malate) and 3033508/3033807 (Alabang).



SOMETHING Fishy at Eastwood City Walk in Libis, QC, features Flying Pomfret, Crispy Baby Squid, Chicken Satay, Chicken Pandan and Bagoong Fried Rice. Call 4216415/4757.

Pots and pans princess

From page E4

over simmering water until warm. (Maximizes the beating capacity of egg whites.) Beat whites in a mixer until frothy. Add vanilla, cream of tartar and salt. Beat until soft peaks form. Gradually beat in remaining sugar, 2 tbsp at a time, occasionally scraping down side of bowl.

Beat until stiff, glossy peaks form. (Careful not to over beat.) Sift one-third of flour mixture over whites. Beat on low speed just until blended. Continue to add the flour by sifting in two more batches.

Gently pour batter into 10x4-inch tube pan, smooth top. Bake cake for about 40 minutes. Serve with whipped cream and strawberries.

Do you have a recipe for a typical Pinoy barbecue? By typical I mean like those that you buy from roadside stands. I miss that sweetish-tangy taste of Pinoy barbecue now that I don't live in the Philippines any more.

LAURA AFRICA

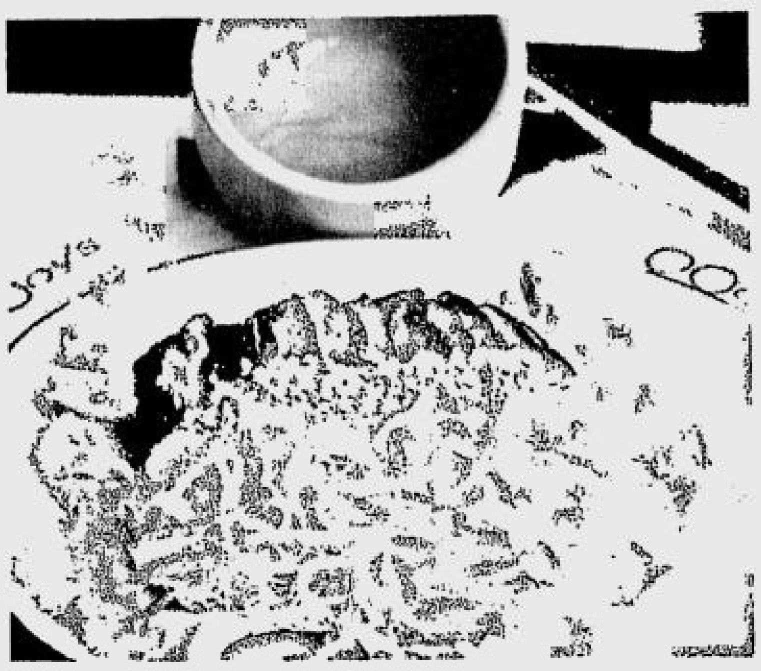
Laura dear, the secret to the Pinoy barbecue is cooking it by the roadside. You need the dirt from the streets and the flies that fester during the preparation and grilling process. I have the same thing to say about fishballs, the ones you buy in the streets will never ever taste like the ones you buy from the *caritons*! The ones we make at home always taste clean, thus never as delicious. Just the same, this is close. Maybe if you don't wash your hands while making it, it will have more of that "*kalye*" flavor you've been craving for. Happy cooking!

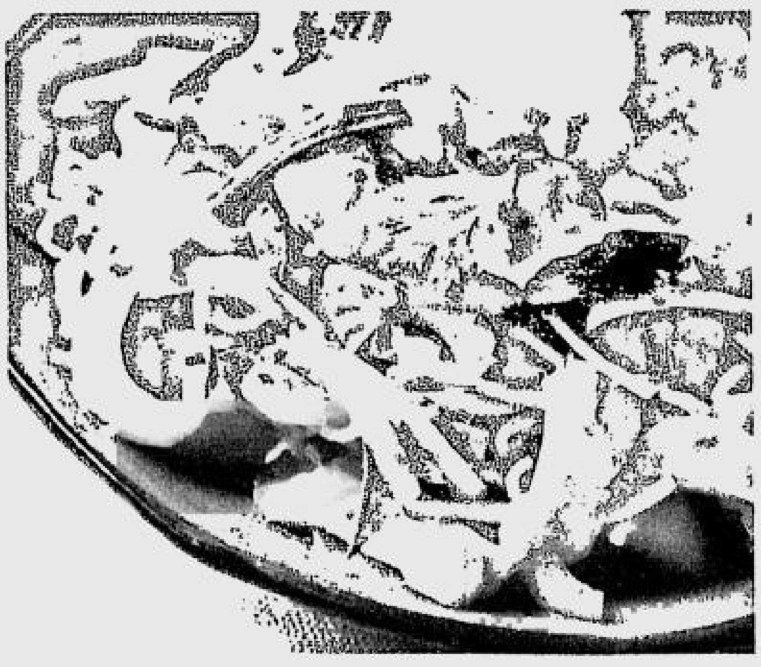
Pinoy Barbecue

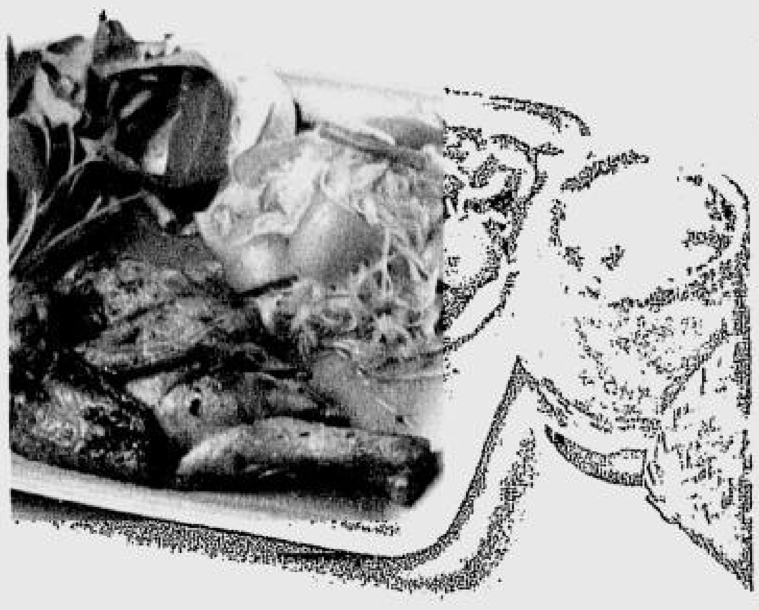
1 kg pork fillet (loin, *liempo* or *kasim*)—I use *kasim*, slice them to size and pound it with a tenderizer
Marinade:
1 c *toyo*
1 c catsup
1 c brown sugar, or adjust according to taste
1 tsp salt and pepper
1/3 c vinegar
1 8-oz bottle 7-Up
½ c garlic, pounded

Combine ingredients and marinate pork overnight. Skewer pork pieces. Grill over coals. Use remaining marinade as basting sauce while grilling.

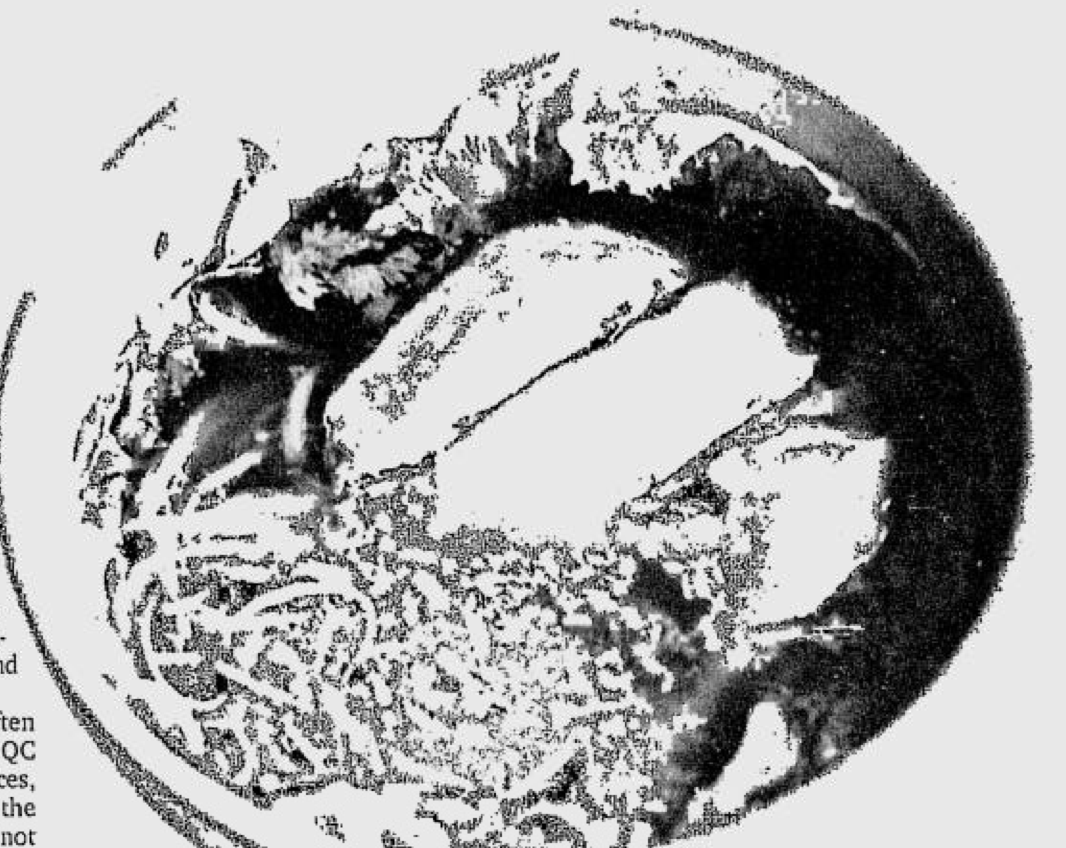
E-mail the author at reggie1 @skyinet.net

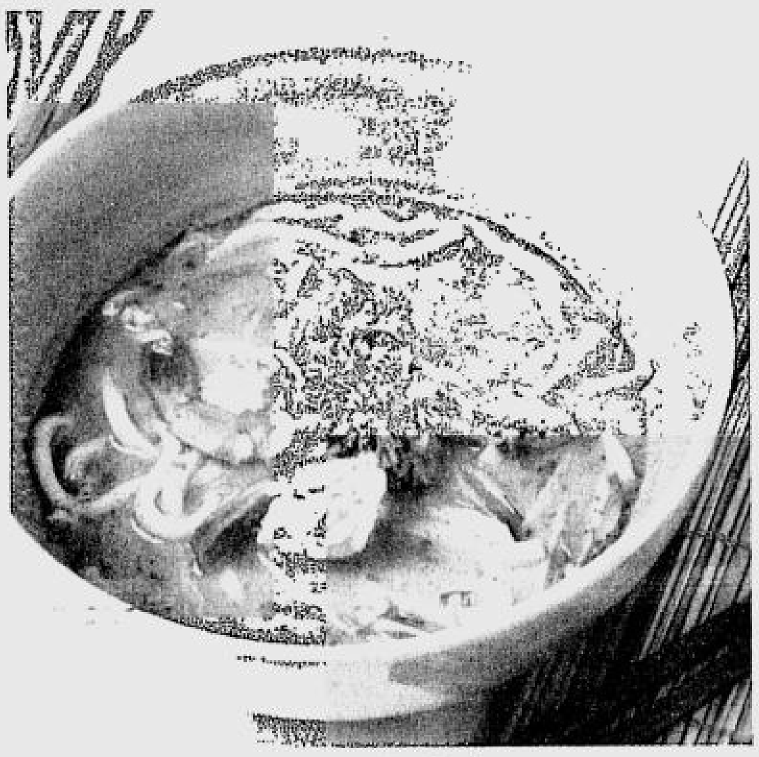

FILLET of Pork with Thai Rice Noodles Vietnamese style


SPICY Egg Noodle Salad with Minced Pork and Seafoods


BARBECUE Chicken with Papaya Salad and Sticky Rice

QC gets oodles of goodies with new restaurant


THAI Rice Noodles with Chicken Drumstick Soup


UDON with Seafoods Spicy Soup (Tom Yam)

From page E1

"People are now appreciating the flavors of Asian cuisine," says Maritel Nievera-Shani, who owns Oody's with husband Dori Shani. "They're beginning to understand there's more to Phad Thai and Chicken Pandan."

Unlike the first outlet, which is often packed with Makati yuppies, Oody's in QC draws a lot of employees from nearby offices, doctors and other medical people from the not-so-far-away St. Luke's Medical Center, not to mention show biz personalities from rival networks ABS-CBN and GMA 7.

Oody's QC is a casual dining and drinking place with an interior that blends various Asian influences. The more prominent features are dark wood and capiz chandeliers.

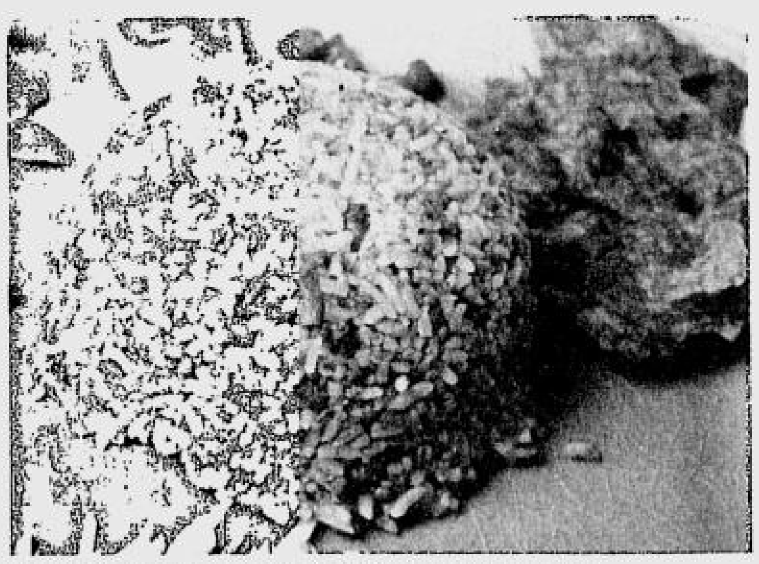
The wine bar has stylized blue-lighted walls to match the soft lights, which are normally dimmed in the evening. Three big murals of Asian noodles and spices hang on concrete whitewashed walls. The wide glass windows allow diners in the 140-seater restaurant to enjoy the street scene on busy Tomas Morato.

Oody's is also becoming a favorite of the late-night crowd.

Contemporary, not fusion

At Oody's, the food is contemporary Asian, but not fusion. "We only serve authentic Thai, Vietnamese and Chinese dishes. Before we opened Oody's, my wife and I traveled around Asia to search for authentic specialties in different eating places and we brought them all here, including hard-to-find vegetables, spices and herbs," says Shani. Oody's even imports its *bagoong*, dried shrimp and chili paste from Thailand.

The restaurant takes diners on an exotic Asian culinary journey. Since noodles are its basic ingredient, Oody's has about 15 kinds of noodles for a hundred dishes on its menu. It offers all day Thai rice noodles, egg noodles, glass noodles, Japanese soba, udon, ramen, spaghetti, macaroni, and Chinese noodles, among others. Portions are consistently generous.


FRIED Rice with Ground Pork, Shrimp and Hot Pepper

OODY'S owners Dori Shani and Maritel Nievera-Shani

Popular soup dishes include Egg Noodles and Shrimp Wanton with Honey Roasted Duck Soup, Thai Rice Noodle Small with Pork Spareribs and Chinese Mushrooms Seasoned with Fresh Coconut Soup, Thai Rice Noodles Big in Soy Sauce with Pork, Mushroom and Dried Shrimp.

Oody's also whips up the traditional Thai Tom Yam Soup, using udon noodles for added texture. It also serves congee and rice dishes.

Thai chefs and cooks man Oody's kitchens, assuring diners of authenticity.

Noodle salads serve as light meals, and the main courses like the Fried Spaghetti with Clams and Chili Paste, Fried Spaghetti with Cabalen Sausage and, Shani's favorite dish, Fillet of Pork with Thai Rice Noodles Small Vietnamese Style are hearty.

Oody's Rice, Noodles and Bar will soon open outlets at Robinsons Galleria's new East Wing and at Robinson's Place Manila.

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

Product expiry dates may need professional code breakers

THE CONSUMER
Marietta Velasco Giron

HOW many of us know that some expiration dates on the label of imported products may be written differently from what we are used to, which is month, day and the year (month/day/year)?

Labels of products from the United States do not pose much of a problem as dates are usually the same way. But, as a savvy shopper explained to us, expiry dates of products from the United Kingdom, Europe and former British colonies are usually written in the following sequence: day/month/year.

The savvy shopper adds: "My Japanese-made camera stamps the date on my photos in yet another way—year/month/day."

Nestlé, according to her, should be praised for its user-friendly expiry date which spells out the month, like 30 Sept. 2003. This eliminates confusion.

We agree that in the light of globalization, with products coming from all over the world, the Department of Trade and Industry should come up with guidelines that will help consumers, as well as supermarket sales people, interpret product expiry dates.

This reminds us of the complaint sent to us last month by Abigail Brual (voicemail@inquirer.com.ph). Like most of us, Abigail and her mother-in-law did not know, until it was explained to them, that expiration dates on some imported products were to be read differently from our own system. She related the following experience:

"Last Sept. 7, my mother-in-law bought cans of Ma-ling at Shopwise supermarket. When she got home, she found out that the expiry date on the cans was 06/06/03. When we tried to return the products to the supermarket, the person-in-charge of the non-fresh section explained to us that the expiry label should be read in the sequence of year/day/month (2006-6-March) and not as we thought, month/day/year (or June 6, 2003). I then suggested that, if that were so, the supermarket management should, at least, put a signage informing customers how to read the expiry date on the label."

Abigail later informed us that a small signage had already been posted in the area.

We sent a copy of the disgruntled shopper's complaint to Shopwise supermarket management. This is the prompt response of Manuel Alberto, vice president for store operations:

"We would like to extend our sincere apologies for the inconvenience that Ms Abigail Brual and her mother-in-law experienced. We have already called the attention of the supervisor involved in the incident. He has been reminded of the proper manner of handling similar situations in the future."

Customers of Shopwise Makati with complaints or queries are urged to see the store manager Lot Sacdalan or write to her at e-mail address lotos@shopwise.com.ph.

Blocked Globe WAP sites

Gladys Sy was one of the cellular phone subscribers who complained about the blocked WAP sites of Globe Telecom. Sy added, "I would also like to point out that Club Nokia site is still not accessible, contrary to what had previously been mentioned."

Here is the reply of Emmanuel A. Aligada, head of Globe Telecom customer service:

"It may interest you to know that the reason for our temporarily blocking certain WAP sites is to preserve the integrity and quality of the GPRS (General Packet Radio Services) services we provide. To support this effort, our technical group has been tasked to continuously evaluate and monitor this service, as well as, implement system upgrades where necessary. Such system upgrades, however, sometimes cause service interruptions which are unavoidable to utility companies.

"As part of this upgrade phase, we have already opened up sites such as Yahoo!, Club Nokia and Software Market. Our own WAP sites, MyGlobe, also provides a wide array of services which subscribers can choose from such as GlobeXTM e-mail, ringing tones, wallpapers, games, music videos, news, information and movie schedules."

DTI responds to consumers

Complaint from G. Jurado Jr.: "I am a Standard Chartered Visa cardholder. I noticed that this bank has added a VAT on our bill, and another VAT on what appears to be interest charges. When I asked the bank about this, they said it was allowed by the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. My other cards, AIG and Metrobank, do not add these charges."

DTI answers: It is legal for Standard Chartered Visa to add the VAT charges to your bill based on the amendment of Revenue Regulation No.18-99 Implementing Section 5 of Republic Act 8424 (Tax Reform Act of 1997), and other pertinent provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997 imposing VAT on services of banks, nonbank financial intermediaries, and finance companies beginning Jan. 1, 2003.

Complaint from Ramon C. Posadas of Palmera Springs 5, Caloocan City: "*Ang tubig mula sa gripo namin ay maamoy, di mailinis at di mainom. Nung* Sept. 11, *pinutol ang aming supply at kinuha ang* water meter *nang walang* notice of disconnection. *Wala rin namang dumating na* water bill *sa amin mula* April 2003. *Dumulog ako sa opisina ng* Central Watersystem Inc. (CWI) sa Starmall Complex, Mandaluyong City. Contractual staff *lang ang aking nakaharap at di makasagot sa aking mga tanong.*"

DTI answers: Water supply and connection in villages and subdivisions are under the jurisdiction of the National Water Resources Board. The DTI-Bureau of Trade Regulation and Consumer Protection has already endorsed Mr. Posadas' complaint and forwarded the above letter to the NWRB. He is advised to follow up his case through NWRB executive director Ramon B. Alikpala (tel. 9202641).

Pots and pans princess

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

I GREW up in a house with the most wonderful pots and pans. Mom collected them as far back as I can remember. Her penchant for food is perhaps the only real source of my love for cooking. She had sets and sets of just about everything that's worth something, not knowing who on earth among her daughters would appreciate it.

See, I come from a family of five witches and one poor boy (to be amid us). All my sisters were sent to cooking schools but, to mom's disappointment, none of those before me enjoyed it. By the time it was my turn, she had given up. But lo and behold, I was to be the pots and pans *heredera*. I've always been in awe of her vast collection. Thank God for my mom's hoarding prowess, for without her, I'd be working thrice as hard to own these kitchen treasures.

The quality of your pots and pans makes a great difference in the outcome of your food. Having been asked repeatedly for my favorite brands, I oblige here with a short list. Sad to say, most of the best things in life come with mighty price tags!

Le Creuset—Hand-made by French craftsmen who cast each piece from molten iron in individual sand molds. After molding, multiple layers of strong, chip-resistant enamel are applied to each piece, eliminating the "cast-iron" seasoning process. Enameled cast iron evenly distributes heat. Combine this with tight-fitting lids and you create a blanket of heat that gently cooks food and seals in the flavor and moisture.

I've been using these for years, and I just love them. My stews, sauces and just about anything and everything come out perfect, each and every time! They now have the most beautiful colors and the fanciest shapes. Bacchus distributes them locally.

Calphalon—Professional hard-anodized cookware is the original Calphalon, the cookware that first brought professional cooking performance into the home kitchen. It is still the cookware of choice for culinary professionals. It was first developed for professional chefs and their restaurant kitchens. Traditional metal cooking surface is stick-resistant—just the right amount of "stick" performance to get the best results with golden browning and rich sauces.

Love these pans, just love them! They come in just about any shape, size and form! I don't know where to find them locally but someone told me that she saw some in Rustan's.

Copper pans—How can we ever survive without them?

Kuhn Rikon Hotpan/Multipan—These are just great! You cook in them and serve in them! Great stainless steel pans that keep your food warm for over two hours without having to use burners. I heard they're great as food warmers and coolers as well, haven't tried the cooling part, though. The great Othmar Frei says that it holds ice cream pretty well, too. The sizes are excellent for parties; you must, must, must get them! I think they're priced reasonably, too!

Swiss Nano Pro—These non-stick diamond powder-coated professional skillets conduct heat faster than anything known to us in the past. The pans are totally non-stick, easy to clean and man-handling resistant, unlike those fragile teflon pans. You must be a victim like me! Go out and buy some, you won't regret it!

Kuhn Rikon Hotpan/Multipan and Swiss Nano Pro are sold in Santi's Deli.

What can I use as a substitute for white wine for your recipe of Pasta Negra?

ADETTE

The substitute for white wine is, more white wine! Sorry!

I'd like to try making the authentic Chinese *kikiam* but i don't know where I can buy the "taupe" wrapper. Do you know where can I buy it? Also, can I buy it in bulk and stock it in the ref or in the freezer?

SAMANTHA

Taupe or soy bean wrappers are available at Great Faith in Aranque-market, which also happens to be one of my favorite stores for hard-to-find Chinese/Oriental ingredients (7347473), or at Lolita's in Farmer's, 9112567). Taupe is available fresh and dried. Should you want to keep them, I suggest that you get the dried ones, keeps quite well and requires no refrigeration.

Would you have a recipe of an easy-to-make/bake Angel cake?

LCS

Thank you for your letter, which I'm not printing in full upon your request.

I am truly flattered that you now buy the paper for the automotive section and for Kitchen Rescue. One day, trust me, I'll be able to make the connection. But just the same, I remain completely thrilled.

For someone who claims to be a frustrated cook, your recipe request is quite a feat for a self-confessed amateur. Just the same, here's a delicious Angel Cake recipe (legend has it that this cake is a by-product of leftover eggwhites from the production of pasta). My gratitude forever, Lupe.

By the way, don't get too excited. I live off Lucky Me Instant Pancit Canton, Spam and Luncheon Meat. And believe me when I say that if the person I'm with were 300 pounds, he would most definitely have the warm bed to himself—there would hardly be any room for me!

Angel Cake

1 ½ c egg whites, at room temperature
1 tbsp warm water
1 c cake flour, sifted thrice with the baking powder
1 ½ tsp baking powder
1 ¼ c sugar, sifted thrice, (caster sugar works best)
2 tsp vanilla
1 tsp cream of tartar
½ tsp salt

Preheat oven to 350°F. Put whites and water in a metal bowl and cast

POTS/ E2

Sylvia Reynoso-Gala

Gold Medalist, Academia de Gastronomos, Madrid, Spain - 1964

and ERNEST REYNOSO GALA
Graduate: full course at Thai Cooking School, Oriental Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

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DEMONSTRATION-STUDENT PARTICIPATION METHOD. ALL COURSES ARE FOR BEGINNERS AND NON-BEGINNERS. HANDS ON ALL COURSES. FEES INCLUDE INGREDIENTS.

- *OCT. 17 FRI. 2:30 TO 5:30 P.M.* - **MONEY MAKING CHOCOLATE FANTASIES(NEW COURSE).** BAKED CHOCOLATE COATED POPCORNS; CREAM CHEESE FILLED CUPCKAES; STICKY WALNUT BROWNIES; CHUNKY CHOCO COOKIES; GERMAN STYLE FUDGY CAKE WITH ICING. **P 880**
- *OCT. 18 SAT. 1:00 TO 5:30 P. M.* - **SAUSAGES MAKING COURSE I LEARN HOW TO MAKE GERMAN (BRATWURST).** HUNGARIAN (KIELBASA); MEXICAN; GREEK; CHORIZO MACAO; BAGUIO SAUSAGES. BONUS; ATCHARAAND GERMAN STYLE HOT POTATO SALAD. **BY LENI R. ARAULLO** WHO TAUGHT AND SOLD HAM AND SAUSAGES TO HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS SINCE 1963. HANDS ON WORKSHOP. **P 980**

Leni Reynoso-Araullo

Masters in Cake Decorating, Wilton School, Chicago, U.S.A.,1974 under Martha and Stanley Wilton. Graduate: Chicago School of Cooking and Catering. Graduate: Full Course, Thai Cooking School at the Oriental Hotel, Bangkok. Studied cooking in Europe, South America and Hong Kong. Co-Founder with Edna, Reynoso Cooking and Baking School, March 1963.

- *OCT.19,26& NOV. 9,16-4 SUNDAYS 9:00 5:00 P. M.*- **MASTER COURSE IN CAKE DECORATING.**P2,700. INCLUDING INGREDIENTS, LUNCH AND SNACK (EXCEPT DECORATING MATERIALS LIKE PIPING BAGS, TIPS, ETC. AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE CULINARY STUDIO OR BRING YOUR OWN). **LESSON 1** FLUFFY BUTTER CREAM ICING, TECHNIQUES IN COLORING. BORDERS; SHELL; ROPE; STAR; LEAF; ZIGZAG;"E" MOTION; FLEUR DE LIZ. MAKE GARLANDS AND SWAGS; BASKET WEAVING; LATTICE DESIGN; 12 DIFFERENT DESIGNS FOR TOP AND SIDES OF CAKE. DIRECT PIPING ON CAKE OF ROSE BOUQUET; SWEET PEA; CARNATION. **LESSON 2** 5 KINDS OF ICING INCLUDING MARSMALLOW, ROYAL TO MAKE SUGAR FLOWERS ON NAILS, TOOTHPICK; FLORAL WIRE, LEARN SUGAR MOLDING, CAKES; FAN; BOOTIES; BASKET CRIB; HEART; MARY'S HEAD; THE LION KING; DVD MUSICAL DESIGN CAKE; TWO ADULT "SEXY" CAKES EACH STUDENT MUST BRING TRAY / BOX TO TAKE HOME CAKE/S. **LESSON 3** MARZIPAN (FREE HAND). MOLDINGS AND PAINTING OF FRUITS ,FIGURES AND VEGETABLES. LEARN THE MARZIPAN ROSE, FIGURE, AND FRUIT PIPING. DECORATE DIFFERENT DESIGNS ON MUFFINS FOR INDIVIDUAL SERVINGS, WHICH HOTELS AND LUXURY LINERS SERVE. **LESSON 4** HOW TO PREPARE DEBUTANT/ WEDDING CAKES:TIERD: STACKED, ETC. EACH STUDENT WILL DESIGN AND DECORATE A WEDDING CAKE (STYRO) TO BRING HOME . PLS. BRING TRAY / BOX.
- *OCT. 21 TUE. 2:30 TO 5:30 P.M.* - **LOURDES FAT CRABS COOKED IN GINGER GARLIC SPRITE.**SIZZLING CHINESE STYLE MONTEREY BEEF TENDERLOIN; SHRIMP BALLS IN NEST WITH SWEET ANS SOUR SAUCE; HONGKONG STYLE ASSORTED VEGETABLE PLATTER; MAGNOLIA STIR FRIED CHICKEN BREAST WITH CASOY; LAPU-LAPU FILLET IN CAMPBELLS CREAM OF CORN SAUCE; STUFFED CRAB CLAWS. **P 980**
- *OCT. 22 WED. 2:30 TO 5:30 P. M.* - **UBE CHIFFON CAKE ; ROCKY ROAD CAKE; MOIST CHOCOLATE CAKE.** FOOD FOR THE GODS AND WALNUT BROWNIES. PLUS TIPS ON CONVERTING CAKES INTO JELLY ROLLS AND MUFFINS. DELICOUS CAKES SOLD IN TOP BAKESHOPS! **P 880.**
- *OCT. 23 THURS. 2:30 TO 5:30 P. M.* - **DELICIOUS CHICKEN CORDON BLEU WITH CREAMY SAUCE.** PAELLA NEGRA, SPICY SQUID RINGS GARLIC SAUCE; DEBONED LEMONY SOY CHICKEN ON WILD RICE; ORIENT SPRING ROLLS WITH SWEET CHILI SAUCE; EASY TIRAMISU. **P 980**
- *OCT. 24 FRI. 2:30 TO 6:00 P. M.* - **10 MINI CHEWY BAR GIVEAWAYS .** WALNUT BAR ; MANGO BARS; LEMON BARS; BANANA CHIP BARS; PRUNE BARS; RICOA CHOCOLATE CHIP BARS; LEMONY NUT BARS, DATE NUT SQAURES & CHOCO-MERINGUE BARS. IDEAL FOR BUSINESS OR AS GIFTS TO FRIENDS. **P 880**
- *OCT. 28 TUE. 2:30 TO 6:00 P. M.* - **2 KINDS OF ROAST BEEF.** MONTEREY STANDING RIB-ROAST AND BACON-WRAPPED BONELESS ROAST WITH GRAVY; CREMA DE FRUTA; SIZZLING SHRIMPS IN GARLIC SAUCE; FRIED SQUID RINGS; CHICKEN ALEXANDER; SEAFOOD MEDLEY SOUP SERVED ON CRUSTY BREADBOWL FROM FRENCH BAKER. **P 980**
- *OCT. 29 WED. 2:30 TO 6:15 P. M.* - **LEARN THE SOFTEST SIOPAO DOUGH EVER!** THE MOST DELICIOUS SIOMAI; KUA PAO (PEKING SIOPAO WITH MEAT FILLING AND PICKLED MUSTASA); FISH HEAD SOUP; CAMARON RELLENADO; QUIKIAM WITH RADISH SALAD; STEAMED LAPU-LAPU. **P 980**
- *OCT. 30 THUR. 2:30 TO 5:30 P. M.* - **LEARN THE DELICIOUS AND AUTHENTIC HONGKONG CHINESE CONGEE (LUGAW WITH DIFFERENT TOPPINGS).** FISH FILLET; PORK SZECHUAN; VEGETABLES; BOLA-BOLA, SHRIMP PORK LIVER, KIDNEY, PIG-STOMACH). DIMSUM STYLE CHICKEN FEET, PORK SPARERIBS, SHRIMPS ON TOAST; BUCHI W/ SESAME SEEDS. **P 980**

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P45,000* straight discount on cash purchase

VARIANT	SRP	CASH DISCOUNT	PROMO PRICE
Matrix MT	P 625,000.00	*P 45,000.00	P 580,000.00
Matrix AT	P 680,000.00	P 40,000.00	P 640,000.00

Financing Scheme 1: ZERO INTEREST

Savings on interest as much as P 78,744*

Variant	Matrix MT		Matrix AT	
SRP	P 625,000.00		P 680,000.00	
TERM	24 mos.	18 mos.	24 mos.	18 mos.
DP %	40%	20%	50%	30%
DP AMOUNT	P 250,000.00	P 125,000.00	P 340,000.00	P 204,000.00
Net Monthly Installment (Promo)	P 15,625.00	P 27,778.00	P 14,167.00	P 26,445.00
Net Monthly Installment (Regular)	P 18,906.00	P 31,219.00	P 17,142.00	P 29,721.00
Customer Savings	*P 78,744.00	P 61,938.00	P 71,400.00	P 58,968.00

Financing Scheme 2: LOW DOWNPAYMENT

As Low as P80,000 down payment

Matrix MT (SRP: P 625,000.00)			Net Monthly Amortization			
DP %	DP	PROMO DP	24 mos.	36 mos.	48 mos.	60 mos.
20%	125,000	*80,000	23,888	17,089	13,789	12,159
30%	187,500	142,500	20,902	14,953	12,065	10,639
40%	250,000	205,000	17,916	12,817	10,341	9,119
50%	312,500	267,500	14,930	10,681	8,618	7,599

Matrix AT (SRP: P 680,000.00)			Net Monthly Amortization			
DP %	DP	PROMO DP	24 mos.	36 mos.	48 mos.	60 mos.
20%	136,000	91,000	25,990	18,593	15,002	13,229
30%	204,000	159,000	22,741	16,269	13,127	11,576
40%	272,000	227,000	19,492	13,945	11,251	9,922
50%	340,000	295,000	16,244	11,620	9,376	8,268

Financing Scheme 3: LOW MONTHLY AMORTIZATION

As Low as P6,506* monthly amortization

MATRIX MT

DP%	DP	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
20%	125,000	500,000	41,667	27,778	21,738	15,552	12,548	11,066
30%	187,500	437,500	36,459	24,306	18,753	13,415	10,825	9,545
40%	250,000	375,000	31,250	20,834	15,768	11,279	9,101	8,025
50%	312,500	312,500	26,042	17,362	13,021	9,143	7,377	*6,506

MATRIX AT

DP%	DP	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
20%	136,000	544,000	45,334	30,431	23,841	17,055	13,761	12,135
30%	204,000	476,000	39,667	26,445	20,591	14,731	11,887	10,481
40%	272,000	408,000	34,000	22,667	17,344	12,407	10,011	8,828
50%	340,000	340,000	28,334	18,889	14,167	10,082	8,136	7,175

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